

# THE FACULTY

## OF GRAND RAPIDS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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### BYARD J. BENNETT, PH.D.



*Associate Professor of Historical and Philosophical Theology*

**Degrees:** B.A., Duke University; M.Div., Duke Divinity School; Ph.D. University of Toronto.

**Career Path:** Alpha Ministries, 1997-1999; Adjunct Faculty, Tyndale College & Seminary, 1999-2002; Faculty, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, 2002–present.

**Research Interests:** Early Christian understandings of evil and suffering; the psychology of temptation; the role played by the emotions in the Christian life.

**Personal:** Dr. Bennett and his wife Shalini have three school-aged children.

**Quotable:** "GRTS' offerings in historical theology have a depth and academic quality that can be matched by few evangelical seminaries. Our M.A. program explores the connections between the history of doctrine and the history of spirituality, examining how various understandings of doctrine and spirituality have combined to shape the Church's pastoral practice."

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### JAMES M. GRIER, TH.D.

*Distinguished Professor of Philosophical Theology*

**Degrees:** Th.B., Baptist Bible College; M.Div., Grace Theological Seminary; Th.M., Westminster Theological Seminary; Th.D., Grace Theological Seminary.

**Career Path:** Pastor, 1962-1969; Associate Professor, Cedarville University, 1969-1982; Grand Rapids Theological Seminary Vice President and Dean, 1982-1998, Distinguished Professor, 1998-present.

**Research Interests:** Medical Ethics; Ministry in a postmodern culture.

**Personal:** Married in 1954, Dr. Grier and his wife Shirley have one adult son who teaches Political Economy at Oklahoma University. Dr. Grier enjoys teaching in Asia, Europe and the U.K., doing conference ministry and reading widely.

**Quotable:** "The key skill in every degree offered at GRTS is the ability to exegete the Bible. GRTS places a significant emphasis on the development of that skill as well as enabling the student to think and minister from the grid of a canonical biblical theology and a Christian worldview. In order to address a postmodern world with the gospel these skills are the foundation of all such ministry."

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# JEREMY G. GRINNELL, M.A., PH.D. (ABD)

*Visiting Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology*

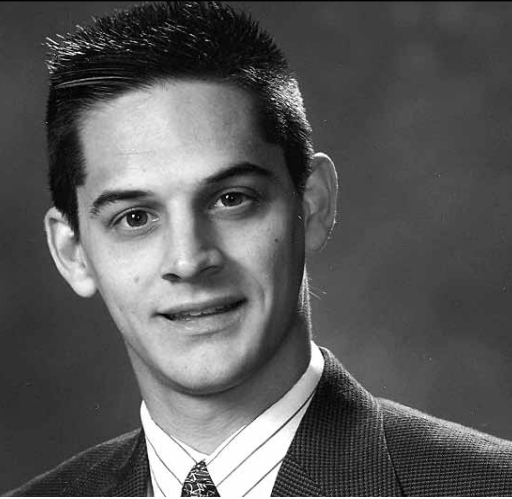
**Degrees:** B. A., Cedarville University; M. A., Grand Rapids Theological Seminary; Ph. D. Program, Calvin Seminary.

**Career Path:** Christian Camping Administration, 1995-1997; Associate Pastorate, 1998-2000; Administration, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, 2000-2002; Adjunct Faculty, Cornerstone University and Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, 2002-2009. Visiting Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary 2010-present.

**Research Interests:** Theological Anthropology and Sin. Mythopoeia and Theology, C. S. Lewis and the role of religious fiction in theological education, and how the 21<sup>st</sup> century desperately needs Aristotle.

**Personal:** Professor Grinnell has the privilege of being married to Denise. They have three daughters, Kyria Elise, Kristine Anastasia, and Kassandra Rose-French. His other great joys are found in preparing and sharing food with friends, solitude in nature, writing exploratory mythology, and exploring his English roots.

**Quotable:** "Theological education at GRTS is concerned neither with memorization of dogma nor propagation of novelty. What do the scriptures say, what has the church taught over her lifetime, and what does that voice say to our own cultural milieu? And to the point, what are the principles of coherent theological thought that will make it clear? Christ's church needs neither parrots nor peacocks, but owls."



# DAVID B. KENNEDY, TH.M.

*Associate Professor of Old Testament*

**Degrees:** B.A., University of Texas (Austin); Th.M., Dallas Theological Seminary; Graduate study, Dallas Theological Seminary, St. Louis University; Graduate of the U.S. Army Chaplain Center & School, the Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College.

**Career Path:** Church planting, 1971-1974; Criswell Bible Institute, 1971-1974; Chaplain (Colonel), U.S. Army Reserve, 1972 – 2005; Senior Pastor/Director of Christian School, 1974-1979, Theology Digest, St. Louis University, 1979-1980; Faculty, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, 1980-present.

**Research Interests:** Old Testament exegesis and interpretation; Old Testament theology; military chaplaincy.

**Personal:** Married to Coila, a registered nurse for St. Mary's Mercy Medical Center. The Kennedys have three adult children, Rochelle, Travis and Michael. Hobbies include walking and reading.

**Quotable:** "I was first attracted to GRTS because so many professors had personally engaged in the ministry for which they were training students. This has continued to be one of our strengths through the years. In addition, GRTS professors have always seemed to take a personal interest in every student."

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# JOHN I. LAWLOR, PH.D.

*Professor of Old Testament*



**Degrees:** B.A., Cedarville University; B.D., Grace Theological Seminary; Th.M., Grace Theological Seminary; M.Phil., Drew University; Ph.D., Drew University.

**Career Path:** Pastor 1969-1970; Interim Pastor 1972-1976; Pulpit Supply 1977-present; Faculty, Baptist Bible College & Seminary, 1970-1999; Penn State University, 1992-1999; Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, 1999-present; and significant experience in middle eastern archaeological excavation and research.

**Research Interests:** Old Testament Narrative studies and Old Testament Archaeology

**Personal:** Dr. Lawlor and his wife, Mary Ellen, enjoy spending time with their children and grandchildren.

**Quotable:** "Becoming a student at GRTS means seriously engaging the biblical text."

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# ROBERT D. LEHMAN, PH.D., LPC

*Professor of Counseling, Counseling Program Director*

**Degrees:** B.A., Cornerstone University; M.Div., Grand Rapids Theological Seminary; M.A., University of Northern Iowa; Ph.D., University of Iowa.

**Career Path:** Pastoral, 1980-1996; Adjunct Faculty, London Baptist Bible College and Theological Seminary, London, Ontario, Canada, 1985-1996; Central Baptist Seminary, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, 1990, 1992; Seminari Baptiste Evangelique Du Quebec, Montreal Quebec, 1993-present; Faculty, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, 1996-present.

**Research Interests:** Biblical counseling

**Personal:** Dr. Lehman is married to Sarah, who serves as an administrative assistant at Cornerstone University. His hobbies include tennis, camping and canoeing.

**Quotable:** "Finding God's answers to today's problems is the focus of the counseling program at GRTS."

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# DAVID A. LIVERMORE, PH.D.

*Associate Professor of Intercultural Ministries and  
Executive Director of the Global Learning Center*

**Degrees:** B.A., Cornerstone University; B.A., Calvin College; M.A., State University of New York; M.T.S., Grand Rapids Theological Seminary; Ph.D., Michigan State University.

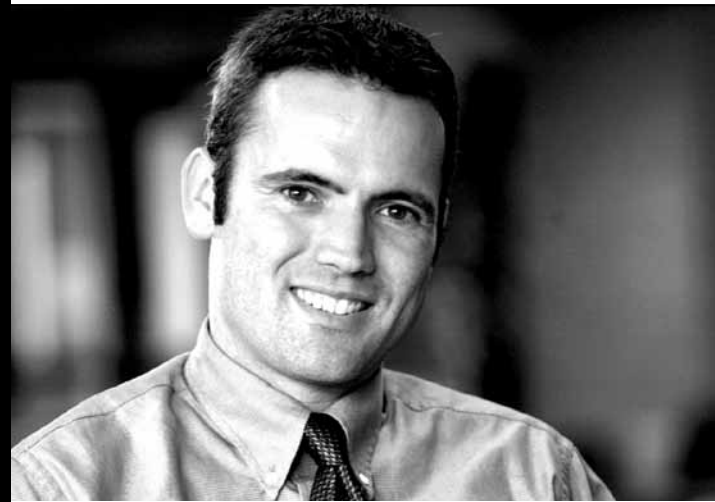
**Career Path:** Pastoral ministry, 1989-1999; Leadership within parachurch organization, 1999-2003; Adjunct faculty at Bethel College, Judson College, Moody Bible Institute, Northern Baptist Seminary and Huntingon College and Biblical Seminary, 1999-present; Research fellow at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, 2008-present; Faculty, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, 2004-present.

**Research Interests:** 21<sup>st</sup> Century missiology, contextualization and cultural intelligence (CQ).

**Personal:** Dr. Livermore and his wife, Linda, have two school-aged daughters, Emily and Grace. He enjoys running and eating ethnic foods.

**Quotable:** "Grand Rapids is a crossroads for those engaged in God's mission around the world. GRTS is positioned both geographically and philosophically to serve God's global church in unusual ways."

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# GARY T. MEADORS, TH.D.

*Professor of New Testament*

**Degrees:** Th.B., Piedmont Baptist College; M.Div., Th.M., Th.D., Grace Theological Seminary.

**Career Path:** Missions to Military, 1969-1971; Pastoral, 1975-1978, 1993-1995, and numerous interim pastorates. Faculty, Piedmont Baptist College, 1979-1983; Grace Theological Seminary, 1983-1993; Baptist Bible Seminary, 1993-1995; Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, 1995-present.

**Research Interests:** Greek exegetical methods; faith/love/hope as the organizing structure for Paul's theology; how to process decisions within a biblical worldview and values structure; issues in 1 Corinthians.

**Personal:** Dr. Meadors and his wife, Gloria Jean, have been married since 1967. His hobbies include playing the banjo, golfing and spending time with his dog, Willie.

**Quotable:** "GRTS offers the 'full meal deal'! A thorough biblical studies and theology program with a cutting edge ministry track. In a day when many programs focus on one or the other, at GRTS you can have it all."

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# CATHERINE MUELLER-BELL, M.A., LPC



*Assistant Professor of Counseling*

**Degrees:** B.S., Lesley College; M.A., Lesley College Graduate School; Ph.D. Program, Capella University.

**Career Path:** Counselor and Counselor Supervisor 1985-1995; Private Practice, 1995-2002; Faculty, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, 2002-present.

**Research Interests:** Women's studies; the cause and effect of child abuse and neglect; the impact of domestic abuse; the integration of theology and psychology; play therapy with children; Christ-centered parenting; biblical communication skills and conflict resolution; multicultural counseling.

**Personal:** Married for 23 years to Mark Bell, Cornerstone University men's soccer coach. They have two sons, Zachariah and Joshua. She enjoys long distance running, travel, hiking, biking, swimming, reading, gardening and visiting art museums and antique shops.

**Quotable:** "The counseling program at GRTS is the best that I have ever seen due to the balance of theology and counseling courses. The learning process involves a combination of exploring the subjective and objective aspects of counseling theory through the lens of the biblical narrative. Your seminary experience will also provide a unique opportunity to cultivate and enhance your own spiritual formation which is an essential part of preparing to serve others through the role of counselor."

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# DAVID L. TURNER, TH.D, PH.D.

*Professor of New Testament*

**Degrees:** B.A., Cedarville University; M.Div., Th.M., Th.D., Grace Theological Seminary; M.Phil., Ph.D., Hebrew Union College- Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati.

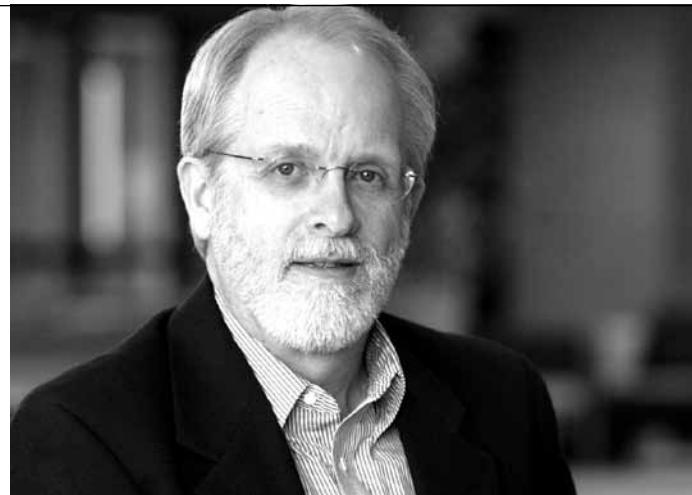
**Career Path:** Pastor, 1974-76; Interim Pastor, 1978-79, 1981-83, 1990-91; Faculty, Baptist Bible College of PA, 1976-79; Grace Theological Seminary, 1980-86; Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, 1986-present

**Research Interests:** The book of Matthew, Second Temple Judaism and the New Testament, Hermeneutics

**Personal:** David likes roots music, the Cincinnati Reds, and everything about Lake Superior. He and his wife, Beverly, enjoy exploring the lighthouses of the Great Lakes and Maine.

**Quotable:** "GRTS does not accept the current fad that one may separate theory and practice. Our educational community constantly strives to integrate biblical thinking, discipleship and ministry."

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# MICHAEL E. WITTMER, PH.D.

*Professor of Systematic and Historical Theology*

**Degrees:** B.A., Cedarville University; M.Div., Th.M., Grand Rapids Theological Seminary; Ph.D., Calvin Theological Seminary.

**Career Path:** Missionary, 1990-1992; Faculty, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, 1996-present; Director, Center for Christian Worldview; Lecturer, "What It's All About" seminars on Christian worldview.

**Research Interests:** Christian worldview, Creation/Culture, Anthropology, Redemption.

**Personal:** Dr. Wittmer and his wife, Julie, have three children: Avery, Landon and Alayna.

**Quotable:** "A major strength of GRTS is its small class sizes. We are a learning community, where students and professors stretch and grow together."

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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|                                                                               |     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| The Faculty of Grand Rapids Theological Seminary .....                        | 1   |
| Institutional Distinctives.....                                               | 8   |
| Cornerstone University.....                                                   | 9   |
| Academic Information.....                                                     | 14  |
| Academic Programs.....                                                        | 21  |
| Master of Divinity.....                                                       | 22  |
| Master of Arts (Old Testament).....                                           | 24  |
| Master of Arts (New Testament).....                                           | 26  |
| Master of Arts (Historical Theology).....                                     | 28  |
| Master of Arts (Systematic Theology).....                                     | 30  |
| Master of Arts in Counseling.....                                             | 32  |
| Master of Arts in Educational Ministries.....                                 | 34  |
| Master of Arts in Intercultural Ministries.....                               | 36  |
| Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies.....                              | 38  |
| Master of Theology.....                                                       | 40  |
| Master of Arts in Ministry Leadership<br>(Cornerstone University degree)..... | 44  |
| Academic Policies.....                                                        | 46  |
| Admission and Registration Procedures.....                                    | 54  |
| Statement of Faith and Practice.....                                          | 58  |
| Financial Information.....                                                    | 59  |
| Student Life.....                                                             | 64  |
| Course Descriptions.....                                                      | 68  |
| Exegetical/Biblical Theology.....                                             | 69  |
| Historical/Systematic/Philosophical/Moral Theology.....                       | 75  |
| Ministry Theology.....                                                        | 79  |
| Counseling Ministries.....                                                    | 85  |
| Extension Courses.....                                                        | 88  |
| Personnel Directory.....                                                      | 90  |
| Index.....                                                                    | 94  |
| Degree Program Checklists.....                                                | 99  |
| Application for Admission.....                                                | 115 |

# INSTITUTIONAL DISTINCTIVES

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## Mission and Purpose

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary is a graduate school that prepares biblically and culturally informed ministry leaders for service through Christ's church.

The seminary exists to achieve the following six purposes:

- 1 To advance biblical, theological and ministry knowledge and skill.
- 2 To nurture theological, spiritual and leadership formation.
- 3 To encourage the development of critical thinking and worldview formation governed by biblical teaching.
- 4 To nurture a global ministry perspective.
- 5 To enhance the cultural relevance of ministry practice within the bounds of a distinctively Christian theological framework.
- 6 To encourage lifelong and collaborative learning.

## Core Values

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary enacts its mission on the basis of the following core values:

- 1 **Biblical Worldview** – We engage theological education from a high view of biblical authority, with appreciation for the flow of the biblical story, and with a commitment to exegete the whole Bible in its original languages.
- 2 **Spiritual Transformation** – We understand and pursue ongoing spiritual transformation as a communal redemptive process of growth in faith, a process fostered by knowledge of the Word of God and expressed in character development, ethical transformation and greater love for God and people.
- 3 **Critical Thinking** – We believe critical thinking requires a strong commitment to scholarship, engagement with diverse viewpoints, and appreciation for the tension of ideas associated with developmental process.
- 4 **Christ's Church** – We exist to serve Christ and His worldwide church as partners in the development of ministry leaders through a variety of formal and non-formal means.

- 5 **Disciplinary Integration** – We nurture skillful integration of the theological disciplines to foster holistic growth in theory and practice, while affirming the value of specialization in the theological disciplines.
- 6 **Lifelong Collaborative Learning** – We foster a disciplined approach to learn throughout one's lifetime and as a shared journey with others.
- 7 **Cross-cultural Understanding** – We affirm cross-cultural interdependence with the diverse cultures and perspectives of the world, and recognize the importance of cultural exegesis and sensitivity for effective ministry.
- 8 **Diverse Community** – We appreciate an academic community which includes men and women of diverse ethnic, socio-economic and Christian theological traditions.

## History

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary of Cornerstone University traces its founding as a degree-granting institution to 1948, when the State of Michigan authorized it to grant the Bachelor of Divinity degree (now called the Master of Divinity). The first graduating class in 1949 boasted two graduates. The institution originally opened in January 1941 as an evening Bible institute at Wealthy Street Baptist Church. In 1944, a day school was started that became the seminary four years later, at which time the school was renamed Grand Rapids Bible Institute and Theological Seminary. The Bible Institute became a state-approved, degree-granting Bible college in 1963, moved to its present location in 1964, and transitioned into a Christian liberal arts college in 1972. In 1999, the entire institution acquired state-approved university status. Today, Cornerstone University and Grand Rapids Theological Seminary share a 123-acre campus four miles from downtown Grand Rapids. It operates with its own board of trustees and president. The seminary is housed in the Leon J. Wood Seminary Building, which opened in 1977. Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, its administration and faculty, operate under the authority of the Cornerstone University board of trustees.

## Cornerstone University

Cornerstone is a Christ-centered University with a passion for global influence through the transforming power of the gospel. Cornerstone University exists to empower men and women to excel as influencers in our world for Christ by offering a student-focused learning



community where Jesus Christ is central. Founded in 1941, the university is now a three-part enterprise: the undergraduate college, with programs for traditional students as well as accelerated undergraduate and graduate degree programs for working adults, the graduate program including Grand Rapids Theological Seminary and Asia Baptist Theological Seminary based in Singapore, and a Christian radio division known as “Cornerstone University Radio” that includes three radio stations, an internationally syndicated program called “Mission Network News,” and a nationally distributed children’s radio ministry called “His Kids Radio.”

## Cornerstone Confession

CORNERSTONE UNIVERSITY AFFIRMS A CORE CONFESSION OF CONVICTIONS IN COMMON WITH THE CREEDS OF THE EARLY CHURCH, THE CONFESSIONS OF THE REFORMATION AND ALL CONSERVATIVE EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANS.

We believe that the Bible is the word of God, truth without error, clear and powerful in its message, sufficient for all of our needs, and final authority for faith and life.

We believe in the triune God – father, son and Holy Spirit – who is holy, loving, good, wise and almighty; who has created all things by his word out of nothing, who sustains, provides for and rules all things, who is our only redeemer and who will judge all people.

We believe that God created men and women in his image and likeness for fellowship with himself and to carry out the creation mandates; that Adam sinned and that by his disobedience the entire race was alienated from God, depraved and totally lost.

We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ who added full humanity to his perfect deity, obeyed God perfectly, died for our sins on the cross, rose again to defeat Satan, returned to heaven to pour out the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and to intercede for his people.

We believe that the triune God has provided a great salvation for those who repent of their sins and trust Christ and his finished work; that he calls, regenerates, justifies, forgives, adopts, sanctifies, keeps and will glorify them.

We believe in the Holy Spirit who has been sent to complete and perfect in us all of the works that Jesus did for us. He convicts of sin, regenerates, sanctifies us, gifts us for ministry and assures us of our salvation.

We believe in the personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ, the bodily resurrection and final judgement of the just and the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved and the everlasting, conscious punishment of the lost.

WHILE MANY FELLOW CHRISTIANS AFFIRM THE ABOVE TRUTHS, WE AFFIRM THEM FROM WITHIN THE BAPTIST TRADITION AS DEVELOPED AT THE END OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY AND AS REFLECTED IN THE FOLLOWING BELIEFS:

We believe that the church is a new people of God born at Pentecost, distinct from Israel, and manifest in local congregations of baptized believers who are committed to carry out the Great Commission.

We believe that Jesus gave two ordinances to the church, baptism of believers by immersion and the Lord’s Supper.

We believe in the autonomy of the local congregation, the priesthood of all believers and in leadership by elected pastors and deacons.

We believe in the continued expression of the spiritual gifts. The more demonstrative or “sign gifts” such as healing, raising the dead and speaking in tongues were given for the authentication of the apostolic generation and are not normative for today.

We believe that Jesus Christ may return at any moment to deliver His people from the coming wrath, defeat the kingdom of Antichrist, and establish His millennial kingdom.

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment and that we are responsible to be good citizens. However, should civil government command us to violate God’s Word, we must obey God rather than man.

We believe in the reality of Satan and his kingdom of darkness, and that our confrontation of Satan demands belief and trust in God and the effective use of Scripture and other resources God has made available to us.

WE ARE AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION AND WOULD FORFEIT OUR MISSION IF WE ATTEMPTED TO BE A LOCAL CHURCH OR IF WE FAILED TO INTERACT WITH THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD. THEREFORE;

We are committed to do this from a thoroughly biblical worldview in which the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

We are responsible to engage the world of education, business, economics, politics, the sciences, the humanities and everything that is included in contemporary world cultures.

We are responsible to prepare our students to be effective in this wider world. To accomplish these goals it is often necessary for us to listen to and critique people and ideas that are influential in this wider world and yet may be in significant disagreement with our convictions.

On this foundation, we desire to prepare students for Christian life, ministry and service in the various cultures of the global community.

## Geographical Setting

Grand Rapids is an excellent locale for a seminary. A quiet, sprawling city with a greater metropolitan area population of more than 600,000, it has been called “the city of churches” and “the center of orthodoxy.” Several hundred conservative evangelical churches within 50 miles of the school offer many opportunities for Christian service and fellowship.

Grand Rapids has an abundance of affordable housing, and the cost of living is lower than in many cities its size. Many seminarians live in off-campus apartments or houses. As the commercial center of Western Michigan, Grand Rapids’ banks, offices, hospitals, school systems and factories provide ample employment opportunities for students and their spouses.

Theological books are easily obtainable since Grand Rapids is the home of four well-known religious book publishers—William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, Zondervan Publishing House, Baker Book House and Kregel Publications. Theologians and missionaries worldwide travel to Grand Rapids to purchase out-of-print and hard-to-find theological volumes from the used bookshops in the area. Ryerson Library, the main public library in Grand Rapids, recently underwent a \$17.5 million renovation. Ryerson’s extensive religious holdings make it a valuable resource for theological students. Also available are the library collections of two other area seminaries, in addition to the thousands of rare theological volumes held in Cornerstone University’s Miller Library.

Cultural opportunities include the Grand Rapids Art Museum, Van Andel Public Museum, Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra, Grand Rapids Ballet, Grand Rapids Opera, professional and collegiate sports teams, professional quality community theatre groups, and many traveling artists, concert performances and events held at DeVos Concert Hall and Van Andel Arena. Malls in the area provide comfortable and enjoyable shopping experiences.

## Curricular Priorities

### *Christian Worldview*

The faculty of Grand Rapids Theological Seminary is committed to a curriculum that places emphasis upon Christian Worldview formation rooted in biblical exegesis. We believe that effective ministry requires biblical and theological precision. We firmly believe that sloppy theology represents poor stewardship of truth and is often counter-productive in ministry.

At GRTS, students are taught to think according to the flow of redemptive history through the meta-narrative approach to theology: Creation–Fall–Redemption–Consummation. Consideration is first given to God’s design at creation: What did God intend? After establishing the ideal, thought is given to the impact

of human rebellion at the fall of man: What are the implications of the fall? Once rebellion, brokenness and incompleteness are considered, thought is given to the influence of Christ’s redemptive work: How has Christ brought restoration? Finally, and with a spirit of anticipation, thought is given to God’s plan for complete restoration: What will human existence be like without the presence of sin? This biblically-based pattern of thought serves as an invaluable guide for biblical and exegetical work and ministry practice. This meta-narrative approach to doing theology and ministry is embedded within a variety of GRTS courses, though the central focus is within the three-course sequence in Systematic Theology (THE-540, THE-640, THE-641).

### *Leadership*

The faculty of Grand Rapids Theological Seminary is also committed to a curriculum that places emphasis upon leadership formation. We embrace a biblically-based servant-leader model of leadership. Pastors and others engaged in vocational ministry must be, first and foremost, humble servants. At the same time, they are called upon to render a stewardship of biblical and theological truth, of persons and groups of persons, and of church or parachurch organizations. Such a calling requires specialized competencies in theological leadership and organizational leadership. The curriculum of GRTS provides opportunity for the development of these necessary competencies through an extensive series of courses in biblical exegesis and systematic theology, and through the Ministry Leadership Core of the Master of Divinity. Students are further encouraged to develop these needed competencies while in seminary through required ministry involvement, and through various required ministry residency, internships and practicums.

## Philosophy of Education

The philosophy of theological education, out of which the curriculum is developed, views theology as a set of overlapping disciplines. In order to develop persons for ministry, there is a need to develop their knowledge as well as their skills. While teaching students preformed theological judgments, their skill in making such judgments must be developed as well.

All students must develop the knowledge and skill to be able to make judgments about the meaning of the text of scripture (exegetical theology). Students must be able to put their interpretation of scripture into the progressive flow of biblical revelation in order to see its canonical relationships (biblical theology). The church has had both scripture and gifted persons for many years. It is important that students learn how the church has used scripture to form its creeds, to defend itself against attack and to minister to each successive generation (historical theology).

Ministry demands the ability to relate all the teaching of the Bible on a topic into a consistent whole. The topical arrangement into a coherent relationship brings wholeness in understanding the Bible (systematic theology). The natural corollary of this is the ability to defend the faith (apologetics) and the ability to use the faith for moral judgments in culture (moral theology).

The capstone and one of the integrating features of theological education is ministry theology. All theology has as its goal the enactment of authentic ministry that is culturally appropriate. Theology, in all of its components, is a faith task of the church for ministry. Ministry can be enacted from multiple contexts, such as missions, education and evangelism.

This philosophy of theological education is expressed in the curriculum design of each degree program. What is covered in each class and how each class is sequenced is the product of implementing this philosophy into the curriculum.

## Philosophy of Ministry

### *Model for Ministry*

The curriculum design and the instructional focus impact the ministry model formed in our graduates. This model for ministry is expressed by three central ideas.

- 1 **Discernment** – The minister, whether in a home-culture or cross-cultural context, must be able to use the text of Scripture for the gracious purpose for which Christ gave it in every act of ministry. The developed capacity to make judgments concerning the text of Scripture in order to communicate the knowledge of God to human experience is essential for theology and ministry.
- 2 **Integration** – The theological perceptual set from which the minister speaks and acts must be relevant to contemporary culture. This frame of reference is the basis for the ministry of preaching and teaching. The minister must balance the theoretical, technical and historical exegesis of the word of God with its appropriate application to people today. To overemphasize *theoria* at the expense of *praxis* leaves preaching unrelated to people in their lived experience. To emphasize *praxis* at the expense of *theoria* is to turn relevance into a pragmatism devoid of the normative speech of God.
- 3 **Credibility** – The minister must be believable and trustworthy. If one's preaching and teaching lacks credibility, then discernment and integration are for naught. Theological education must form in its students the character traits, the skills and the learning to make them worthy of belief in every act of ministry.

### *Relationship of the Seminary to the Church*

The local church is responsible to identify believers in their assembly who have been gifted by the spirit for special office in the church. Such individuals need appropriate knowledge and skills for ministry. The seminary, on behalf of the church, educates these gifted persons for their ministry in the church. In turn, the church grants ministry credentials to those persons identified by the church and appropriately educated for ministry. This implies that although the seminary is not the church, yet it performs a service to the church by educating gifted persons for ministry in the church.

### *Relationship between Faith, Church and Theology*

Faith is primarily allegiance to God as he has disclosed himself in Christ. Faith brings a person to covenant loyalty in the body of Jesus Christ. It is grounded in the grace of redemption and brings one to Christ as a member of his body.

Worship, edification and evangelism define the function of the church in the world. In order to fulfill its function, the church must practice theology as a faith task in the world. Theology is primarily a church task in the world. It is an activity that the church engages in to fulfill its mission. One of the primary purposes for which the church does theology is to enact authentic Christian ministry that is culturally appropriate. Theology is not an end in itself. Whether one does exegetical, biblical, historical or systematic theology, it is always for the sake of the church's ministry. The practical questions of ministry need to give direction to the task of theology right from the beginning.

This vision of the relationship of faith, church and theology is intended to heal the breach between ministry and theology. Doing theology and doing ministry are two aspects of a common activity. Since faith is primarily the loyalty of the human person to the divine person as disclosed in Christ, then faith is relevant to all of life. This faith places us in a redemptive community which has the task of doing theology in order to enact authentic Christian ministry that is culturally appropriate.



Royce Evans, M.A.  
*Director of Ministry  
 Residency*

### **Ministry Residency (MR)**

Through Ministry Residency (MR) Grand Rapids Theological Seminary provides students the challenge and opportunity of enhancing the classroom experience through hands-on service in a ministry context. Under the intentional mentorship and accountability of church and para-church ministry leaders, students learn how to practically apply their theological knowledge in relevant, yet different social, economic and cultural situations. This unique educational program helps students to integrate life and ministry, preparing them for future roles of leadership and service, as well as, continual personal growth. Students learn to develop and own a theologically sound and defined sense of purpose and mission. They also identify their strengths, abilities and spiritual giftedness, while developing their skills in environments that will both test and stretch them.



David Livermore, Ph.D.  
*Executive Director*

### **Global Learning Center (GLC)**

The Global Learning Center exists to empower leaders for effective life and ministry in a global context. Under the leadership of Dr. David Livermore (Executive Director), the central purposes of GLC are achieved through the delivery of graduate level theological education to cohorts of ministry leaders in diverse international settings, intercultural ministry training and consultation, and research initiatives to better understand the unique missional challenges and opportunities of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **Accreditation and Academic Standing**

ACCREDITED MEMBER of the Association of Theological Schools, 10 Summit Park Drive, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15275-1103, 412.788.6505.

ACCREDITED by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, 30 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 2400, Chicago, Illinois 60602, 800.621.7440.

AUTHORIZED by the Michigan State Board of Education to grant the B.D. degree in 1948, the M.Div. degree in 1968, the M.R.E. degree in 1969, the Th.M. degree in 1977, the M.T.S. degree in 1985 and the M.A. degree in 1996.

The U.S. Army, Navy and Air Force accept M.Div. graduates as candidates for the chaplaincy. The United States Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service has approved the seminary for education of international students.

The U.S. Office of Education Directory lists GRTS as an approved graduate theological institution.

*Welcome From The Academic Dean*  
**John F. VerBerkmoes, Ph.D.**

GRAND RAPIDS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

**Dear Student,**

I am delighted that you have chosen to review this catalog. It will give you a good introduction to the purposes, programs and people of Grand Rapids Theological Seminary. I invite you to follow up your reading of these pages with a visit to our campus. Such a visit will provide you an opportunity to pose questions and to think together with us about God's calling for your life. Please call 800.697.1133 to make arrangements to visit us today!

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary has been preparing individuals for a variety of Christian ministries for more than 60 years. We are committed to providing our students with a well-rounded program that integrates Christian worldview, biblical knowledge, theology, exegesis and ministry skills, so that you are equipped for a lifetime of service to Christ and his Church. Whether you are a professional looking for continuing education in Christian studies or a person called to vocational Christian ministry, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary has programs that will address your needs.

As a graduate school of theology and ministry, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary is a community of learners who hold in common the desire to study God's word as the means to know God and serve the Christian community. You will have access to seasoned professors, both in and out of the classroom, who desire to help you integrate knowledge and service into a lifestyle. I invite you to join us in this journey!

*John F. VerBerkmoes*

John F. VerBerkmoes, Ph.D.

*Academic Dean*



# ACADEMIC CALENDAR

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## FALL 2010

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|                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Faculty Work Days       | September 1-2  |
| Labor Day               | September 6    |
| New Student Orientation | September 7    |
| Classes Begin           | September 8    |
| Registration Begins     | October 25     |
| Thanksgiving Break      | November 24-26 |
| Final Day of Classes    | December 10    |
| Final Exams             | December 13-16 |

|                                            |            |
|--------------------------------------------|------------|
| Last Day for withdrawal without W/P or W/E | November 9 |
| Last day for withdrawal without W/E        | December 6 |

## SPRING 2011

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|                         |               |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| J-Term                  | January 10-21 |
| New Student Orientation | January 24    |
| Classes Begin           | January 24    |
| Spring Break            | March 7-11    |
| Registration Begins     | March 14      |
| Good Friday             | April 22      |
| Easter Sunday           | April 24      |
| Final Day of Classes    | April 29      |
| Final Exams             | May 2-5       |
| Commencement            | May 6         |

|                                            |          |
|--------------------------------------------|----------|
| Last Day for withdrawal without W/P or W/E | March 28 |
| Last day for withdrawal without W/E        | April 25 |

## SUMMER 2011

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|                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Session | May 16-27      |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Session | May 31-June 10 |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Session | June 13-24     |

## FALL 2011

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|                         |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Faculty Work Days       | Aug. 31- Sept.1 |
| Labor Day               | September 5     |
| New Student Orientation | September 6     |
| Classes Begin           | September 7     |
| Registration Begins     | October 24      |
| Thanksgiving Break      | November 23-25  |
| Final Day of Classes    | December 9      |
| Final Exams             | December 12-15  |

|                                            |            |
|--------------------------------------------|------------|
| Last Day for withdrawal without W/P or W/E | November 8 |
| Last day for withdrawal without W/E        | December 5 |

## SPRING 2012

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|                         |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| J-Term                  | January 9-20 |
| New Student Orientation | January 23   |
| Classes Begin           | January 23   |
| Spring Break            | March 5-9    |
| Registration Begins     | March 12     |
| Good Friday             | April 6      |
| Easter Sunday           | April 8      |
| Final Day of Classes    | April 27     |
| Final Exams             | Apr 30-May 3 |
| Commencement            | May 4        |

|                                            |          |
|--------------------------------------------|----------|
| Last Day for withdrawal without W/P or W/E | March 26 |
| Last day for withdrawal without W/E        | April 23 |

## SUMMER 2012

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|                         |               |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Session | May 14-25     |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Session | May 29-June 8 |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Session | June 11-22    |

# ENROLLMENT OPTIONS

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In recognition of the diversity of life circumstances, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary provides a wide range of enrollment options to students. Typically, students progress through degree programs by participating in a combination of the enrollment options. To assist students in mapping their academic program, GRTS maintains a four-year course planner, which provides a broad view of the next four years of course rotations. The diverse set of enrollment options available at GRTS are described in greater detail below.

## Traditional Semesters

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary is a semester-based school with the fall semester running from early September to mid-December and the spring semester running from mid-January to mid-May. Resident courses are scheduled Monday to Friday with morning, afternoon and evening options. Two kinds of resident courses are available during the traditional semesters, split-block and full-block. Split-block courses are offered on Tuesday and Thursday with 80-minute sessions on both days each week. Full-block courses are offered throughout the week, and these courses meet once per week in a two-hour and 50-minute session. See the "Academic" section of the Grand Rapids Theological Seminary Web page under "Course Schedule" for the current and/or most recent course schedule.

## Evening Courses

In response to the recommendations of working professionals desiring seminary education, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary now offers a variety of evening courses during the traditional fall and spring semesters. The evening courses meet one night per week throughout the 15-week semester, are available on an audit or credit basis, and can be applied to a variety of seminary degree programs. See the Academic section of the Grand Rapids Theological Seminary web page under "Course Schedule" for the current and/or most recent semester course schedule.

## Distance Education

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary offers nearly 30 courses for graduate credit through distance education. There are two specific types of distance education courses available at GRTS: On-line and Independent Enrollment. Both types of courses can be completed by qualified students on a non-degree basis or applied to a particular degree program.

The first type of course, the on-line courses, are developed and facilitated by the faculty of the seminary. This style course typically enrolls 12-14 students at a time and includes required reading, guided on-line discussion with peers and the course facilitator, papers and/or projects, and in some cases, exams. The on-line courses are available fall, spring and summer semesters and track with the traditional 15-week rotation.

The second style of distance education course available at GRTS, the independent enrollment course, utilizes the resources of the Institute of Theological Studies (ITS). The ITS courses are available during the fall and spring semesters, but not during the summer semester. These courses consist of recorded lectures, reading requirements, papers and projects, and exams. Course materials must be purchased in a package from Grand Rapids Theological Seminary and cannot be returned for a refund.

The extent of distance education enrollment, on-line and independent enrollment, is limited to five courses within a degree program. Students are limited to two distance education courses per semester and are not eligible to enroll for audit. Students on academic probation or students with two or more outstanding "incomplete" grades in other courses are not eligible to enroll in distance education courses.

## J-Term

A 10-day intensive residential session, J-Term, is available each year during the first two weeks of January. Given the structure of these courses, students are able to enroll in a morning and/or afternoon course. J-Term courses typically meet Monday through Friday. Morning classes are held from 8 a.m. to noon, while afternoon classes meet from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. See the Academic section of the Web page under "Course Schedule" for the current and/or most recent J-term course schedule.

## Summer School

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary offers additional graduate resident courses through four summer sessions. These 10-day intensive sessions provide opportunity to enroll in over 20 different courses between mid-May and late June. These courses are applicable to a variety of degree programs. Course syllabi can be secured in advance, allowing the student to complete some of the reading requirements before the course begins. After the 10-day session has ended,

students are granted four to six weeks to complete required major papers or projects. On-campus accommodations are available to the student at a reasonable cost. See the Academic section of the Grand Rapids Theological Seminary Web page under "Course Schedule" for the current and/or most recent summer course offerings.

period. Courses meet one night per week (usually Monday evenings) during traditional semesters (fall and spring). Courses completed in TEP can be utilized towards a degree program, towards the TEP certificate, or simply for personal enrichment. TEP courses are run on a cohort basis and admission is restricted to working professionals.

## Modules – Master of Theology

The Master of Theology degree program is primarily delivered to students through course modules. The course modules are coordinated on an individual basis with the supervising professor. For specific course requirements, consult the Master of Theology degree listing and related course descriptions in this catalog.

## Theological Education for Professionals (TEP)

In response to growing interest in theological education among working professionals, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary has developed Theological Education for Professionals. TEP consists of a 10-course sequence scheduled over a five year

# PROGRAM FEATURES

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Before entering seminary, preparation for the ministry begins with the call of God and a commitment to a life of service. Development of the gifts of God through a consistent personal relationship with Christ, appreciation of the power derived from regular Bible study, cultivation of meaningful social relationships and demonstration of emotional maturity are imperative for church ministry.

## A Flexible Approach

Inclination to ministry may come after completing college education without a pre-seminary major. The seminary recognizes God's providence leads many students from varied educational backgrounds and experiences into the ministry. The curriculum offers students without background in Greek, Bible or philosophy, the opportunity to take these basic courses early in their education and then proceed to more advanced studies.

Those who have undergraduate preparation in Greek, Bible and theology may be able to move directly into advanced studies. Upon approval of the Theology Department, a student with the appropriate undergraduate background may substitute the seminar

sequence in systematic theology for the regular three-course sequence.

Students who are still pursuing their undergraduate degrees should consider appropriate breadth in history of western civilization, philosophy and logic, world literature, advanced speech, Greek, Hebrew and basic Bible.

## Greek & Hebrew Competency Exam

For entering students who have completed a minimum of one year of Greek and/or Hebrew language studies at the undergraduate level and desire to proceed into BBL-672 or BBL-640, language competency must be demonstrated by the satisfactory completion of the Greek and/or Hebrew Competency Exam. Students who successfully complete the particular competency exam will be given permission to proceed into BBL-672 and/or BBL-640, and granted advanced standing credit. Cornerstone University graduates who successfully complete the entire undergraduate Greek and/or Hebrew language sequence (B or better in each course), and immediately proceed into GRTS, are exempt from the Competency Exam Requirement



but must complete and submit the Advanced Standing Application.

The Greek and/or Hebrew Competency Exam is also required for entering GRTS students seeking transfer credits and authorization to proceed into the first course of the Old Testament and/or New Testament sequence (i.e., BBL-672 and/or BBL-640) in any of the following instances: when the source of the transfer credits is a non-ATS school; the graduate courses are not comparable to BBL-510/BBL-511 and/or BBL-516/BBL-517; the grades achieved are below the required B grade; or the graduate language courses were not completed within the previous two years. In such cases, the student is required to complete the appropriate GRTS Competency Exam before the transfer credits will be processed and authorization granted to proceed into the first course of the sequence.

Unsatisfactory completion of the GRTS Competency Exam requires completion of BBL-510/BBL-511 and/or BBL-516/BBL-517 at GRTS, and results in the denial of the Greek and/or Hebrew language advanced standing or transfer credit. Greek and Hebrew competency exams are administered during New Student Orientation in the fall and spring. Those students interested/required to sit for one of these exams must complete and submit the Greek and Hebrew Competency Exam/Advanced Standing Application, which can be secured through the Admissions or Academic offices of GRTS.

### **THE-501 Program Introduction Seminar**

Required during a student's first semester, THE-501 Program Introduction Seminar is designed as an introduction to graduate theological education in general, and to the academic culture of GRTS in particular. The course socializes entering students into the rigors of graduate scholarship by honing their skills in theological research, reading and writing. A number of entering student assessments are also embedded within the course to aid GRTS in subsequent efforts to nurture the growth and development of students, both individually and collectively.

### **MIN-711 Program Completion Seminar**

Required during the final semester of enrollment within the degree program, MIN-711 Program Completion Seminar is designed to aid students in the transition from student life in the academy to professional practice in ministry. Particular focus is given to ministerial identity formation, resume development, ministry search process and resources, and ordination and licensure. Student assessments are embedded within this course to aid GRTS in

subsequent efforts to nurture student growth and development.

## **Master of Arts Thesis**

In preparation for doctoral studies, select students within the Master of Arts programs may wish to complete a master's thesis as the capstone of their educational experience at GRTS. Students interested in exploring this option should communicate this preference to the faculty advisor early in the degree program. The inclusion of a thesis in the degree program requires formal faculty advisor approval using the Master of Arts: Thesis Topic Approval Form. The form should be completed and submitted to the faculty advisor prior to enrollment for Thesis Readings, along with a copy of the student's undergraduate and current graduate academic transcripts. The Thesis Topic Approval Form must be submitted, and include faculty advisor approval, at the time of registration for Thesis Readings.

Enrollment for the Master of Arts thesis consists of two elements: Thesis Readings (BBL-584, THE-584, MIN-584, COU-584) and Thesis (BBL-792, THE-792, MIN-797, COU-792). Students are encouraged to enroll in Thesis Readings the semester prior to enrollment for the thesis, while enrolling for the Thesis during their last semester. The required readings course is intended to provide the student an opportunity to expand his/her knowledge base in the specific area of study and to focus the thesis topic. Thesis Readings and Thesis will require the completion and submission of the Special Enrollments Form during the registration process. Students are encouraged to work closely with their faculty advisor in identifying and developing an area of study for the thesis. Students are also encouraged to consult the Master of Arts Thesis Readings syllabus and Master of Arts Thesis syllabus for processing and procedure details.

## **Student Learning Portfolio**

The student learning portfolio is a web based e-portfolio of student assessments and student coursework samples. The student learning portfolio is intended to serve two main purposes. First, the student learning portfolio documents student progress in the development of essential knowledge, competencies, and values, and provides a foundation to foster continued growth. Second, the student learning portfolio serves as an objective means for faculty to assess collective student growth and to evaluate overall program effectiveness. Participation in all required assessments and submission of all portfolio documents is a responsibility of the student and a requirement for graduation.

## Student Assessments

In an effort to aid students in cognitive, affective, and behavioral growth and development, a series of student assessments beyond traditional classroom grading, are integrated as requirements within the various GRTS degree programs. A brief description of some of these assessments is outlined below:

### *Entrance Assessment*

A brief introductory meeting with the faculty advisor which allows an assessment about the alignment of the selected degree program with the student's aspirations, capabilities and vocational goals.

### *MIN-500 Christian Spiritual Formation*

A battery of assessments (Myers-Briggs, DiSC, ECI and MCMI-III) is incorporated into this course. The results of these assessments serve as the basis for the development of a personal growth plan as assigned within the course.

### *MIN-510 Organizational Leadership*

Students complete the Leadership Practices Inventory (LPI). Results of this assessment aid students in gaining a greater sense of their leadership style and lay a foundation for personal and professional growth.

### *Mid-point Assessment*

A formal analysis of the student's academic and non-academic development, and an evaluation concerning progress in ministry readiness. This process involves the academic advisor, academic dean, dean of student services, ministry mentor, and executive director of the Ministry Residency

### *Ministry Residency*

Ministry mentors assess students each semester in regards to the student's contributions, needs and developmental progress as they function within an authentic ministry setting.

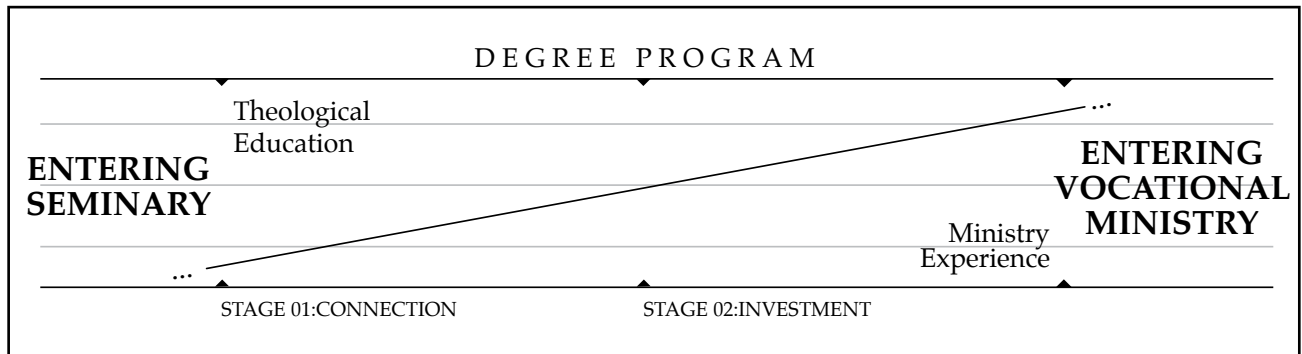
### *MIN-711 Program Completion Seminar*

A reflective essay is embedded as a requirement within this course, allowing the student to consider the extent and direction of growth and development while enrolled at GRTS.

### *Exit Assessment*

This is an opportunity for students nearing graduation to provide substantive feedback about their GRTS experience. The exit assessment is coordinated by the academic dean and dean of student services and takes the form of personal interviews and/or opinion surveys.

## Your Degree Journey



# MINISTRY RESIDENCY

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Grand Rapids Theological Seminary is committed to equipping students and elevating their integration of theological discipline with ministry experience. The Ministry Residency (MR) at GRTS prepares students for vocational ministry by providing avenues for them to connect with ministry coaches and to invest in local ministries.

If you are a student pursuing a Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Education or Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies, you will invest eight credits of your degree toward serving alongside a mentor in a local ministry. Through the MR, we are committed to assisting your preparation and implementation of this aspect of your program.

GRTS is committed to giving you a solid theological framework that will allow you to assess and grow in an integrated, local ministry context. This is a high value we all share at GRTS and we are committed to assisting you in your preparation for ministry.

## ***Program Scope – Learning, Serving, Leading***

The Ministry Residency at GRTS is a tangible expression of the high value we place on integrating solid, theological thinking with hands-on ministry experience. We desire to graduate thoughtful leaders who champion theological integrity and who are beginning to demonstrate proven, ministry effectiveness.

The MR works to connect students with their local ministry interests, establishing a ministry context in which a student can worship, serve in a ministry capacity and be mentored by a seasoned ministry leader.

## ***Program Spirit – Theological Informed Ministry Practice***

It is the spirit of GRTS to work alongside the church to assist in preparing ministry leaders for theologically informed ministry practice and who are theologically competent and ministry capable. GRTS continues to enjoy a growing heritage of ministry leaders in multiple fields expressing the gospel through pastoring, teaching, counseling and leading. It is in these expressions that we find our greatest sense of impact and success.

## ***Ministry Growth Through the Ministry Residency***

The MR is designed as an extended, contextual immersion with a local ministry (8 credits over two years). Our heartbeat is to develop a missional web between GRTS, graduate students and local churches

in order to equip emerging leaders as they prepare to serve God through the church.

The MR at GRTS is committed to assisting students in developing their potential and refining their calling as a Christian leader.

- The MR is founded on an educational philosophy intent on encouraging students to extend their theological training into actual ministry environments.
- Residency allows each student program at GRTS to remain dynamic in response to our rapidly changing world and to the contexts in which our graduates endeavor to minister.
- Students' connection with GRTS and the MR give them an opportunity to express their calling through theological reflection, through coaching feedback and through actual ministry opportunity.
- Partnerships with proven, local ministries and coaches provide contexts encouraging GRTS students to develop as creative leaders, reflective shepherds, effective practitioners and thoughtful theologians.

## ***Ministry Competency Through the Ministry Residency***

The MR's goal is to create an approach that allows residents to explore their ministry calling in a local ministry while growing in their ministry competency.

We have identified 10 pastoral competencies that will guide a resident's learning and will be used to track one's growth in these areas. The ten competencies we anticipate growth in are:

- Time Management and Allocation
- Contemplation/Reflection (Spiritual Disciplines/Soul Care)
- Ministry Task/Administration
- Teaching/Preaching/Facilitating
- Volunteers: Leading, Staffing, Team Dynamics
- Pastoral/Ministry Duties
- Strategic Planning/Programming
- Counseling/On Call
- Personal Leadership (Identifying gifts and passions)
- Specialized Ministry

### *Theologically Informed Ministry Practice Through the Ministry Residency*

Competencies focus on tangible outcomes of applied knowledge and value. The MR seeks to encourage experience and reflection upon competencies based on the following values. These values will enhance students' reflection papers as directed in the course syllabi.

- **Theological Reflection**—The student develops a growing ability to navigate ministry situations through the theological matrix emerging through their academic disciplines and ministry experiences. Academic rigor will affect ministry practice and ministry experience will motivate theological study. A student that values theological reflection is able to bring theology into life situations and will constantly be pursuing theological clarity as their knowledge and experiences expand.
- **Communal Interdependence**—The student values the necessity of a local community where they invest and are invested in. They recognize their essential connection with their local church and are responsive to the counsel, support and feedback of their ministry coach and academic advisors committed to speaking into their lives. A student with communal interdependence values the necessity for community and is able to receive and contribute freely in this context.
- **Spiritual Transformation**—The student develops ongoing disciplines that foster a deepening love for God and maturing worldview that allow for personal and professional choices to flow out of thoughtful reflection and a teachable heart. They recognize the need for continual seeking of God and his purposes and are vigilant in watching their life and doctrine closely. A student who values spiritual reformation is thoughtful, reflective and eager to mature in their following of Jesus.
- **Missional Identity**—The student reflects on their own development, discovering and refining their gifts, abilities, passions and limitations. Through their academic interaction and ministry experiences, the student grows in how God is calling them to contribute to his redemptive mission. One would expect the student to grow in written and verbal communication, leadership qualities, counseling experience and pastoral care. A student with missional identity begins to envision their next steps in God's calling and is aware of their strengths and weaknesses.
- **Contextual Vision**—The student grows in wisdom and compassion and seeks to understand their world (social, environmental, economic and cultural setting) in which they minister and live. As servant leaders, they seek ways to love others though understanding them before prescribing formulaic answers. Further, the student gains a broader perspective of the world

and the necessity for understanding the global church and the issues surrounding missions, multiculturalism and true partnership. A student with contextual vision is embracing a realistic view of their world (through listening and learning) and is envisioning (and desiring) what God might want it to truly be.

### *Getting Involved with the MR*

- As a student enters his/her degree program, he/she will spend their first semester connecting relationally with a church/ministry while they immerse themselves in theological study.
- When the student approaches his/her final four semesters of his/her program, he/she will invest with the local ministry, serving 12-15 hours a week in order to bring their training to a local context and their ministry experiences back to the classroom.
- By the end of the program, a student graduates with theological understanding, ministry experience and valuable feedback from faculty and ministry coaches.

### *MR Opportunities for Students*

The MR at GRTS is working hard to partner with quality churches/para-churches and coaches who will offer diverse opportunities for students to serve in a local ministry setting. The MR's role is to inform students of potential sites and coaches and to communicate with mentors about available students.

For a general list of ministries connected with MR and open to exploring ministry residencies with a students, go to the MR website for our list of over 60 potential ministry sites. Also, visit GRTS's MinistryConnect for residency opportunities at [www3.cornerstone.edu/grts/ministryconnect/](http://www3.cornerstone.edu/grts/ministryconnect/).

### *MR Next Steps*

For more information on the MR Residency, access to the MR Handbook, program details, and latest updates, visit the MR Website at <http://grts.cornerstone.edu/resources/MR>. You can also attain a copy of the MR Handbook by contacting Diana O'Connor.

Feel free to contact Diana O'Connor for general questions on the MR or contact Royce Evans to talk about your specific ministry and residency goals.

**MR Administrative Coordinator**  
**Diana\_L\_OConnor@cornerstone.edu**  
**616.222.1422**

**Royce Evans**  
**Director of Ministry Residency**  
**Royce\_A\_Evans@cornerstone.edu**  
**616.222.1422**

# ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

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## Master of Divinity

### *Specialization Options*

- Pastoral Ministries
- Church Planting
- Intercultural Ministries
- Youth Ministries
- Adult Ministries
- Women's Studies
- Counseling Ministries
- Chaplaincy Ministries

## Master of Arts

- Master of Arts (Old Testament)
- Master of Arts (New Testament)
- Master of Arts (Historical Theology)
- Master of Arts (Systematic Theology)
- Master of Arts in Counseling

### *Cognate Options*

- Youth Ministries
- Women's Studies
- Adult Ministries
- Biblical Studies
- Theological Studies
- Interdisciplinary Studies
- Thesis Track

Master of Arts in Educational Ministries

### *Cognate Options*

- Youth Ministries
- Adult Ministries
- Women's Studies
- Interdisciplinary Studies

- Master of Arts in Intercultural Ministries
- Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies
- Master of Arts in Ministry Leadership  
(Cornerstone University degree)

## Master of Theology

- Master of Theology (Old Testament)
- Master of Theology (New Testament)
- Master of Theology (Historical Theology)
- Master of Theology (Systematic Theology)

# MASTER OF DIVINITY

The Master of Divinity degree is recognized as the historical standard in academic preparation for both vocational ministry and advanced theological study. This particular program is designed to develop essential biblical and theological competencies for ministry leadership in congregations, as well as other ministry contexts. Those interested in building a foundation for advanced study may also find the Master of Divinity an attractive option. The program consists of 94 semester hours which emphasize the study and interpretation of the Scriptures in the original languages, breadth in the disciplines of theology, and the development of essential ministry competencies. The program has been designed around a core of basic biblical and theological studies, a ministry leadership core, ministry specialization courses and eight semester hours of ministry residency. Applicants for the Master of Divinity degree program should possess a minimum 2.5 cumulative undergraduate grade point average from an accredited baccalaureate institution. Applicants not meeting this standard may be considered for probationary admission. For students planning to enroll full time, the table below provides a detailed and specific curricular path. Those intending part-time enrollment will find valuable insights from this information for planning your ideal course sequencing.

| FALL SEMESTER                  |                                           |     | J-TERM/SPRING SEMESTER         |                               |     | SUMMER SEMESTER       |                                   |     |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----|
| NO.                            | COURSE                                    | CR. | NO.                            | COURSE                        | CR. | NO.                   | COURSE                            | CR. |
| <b>YEAR 1</b>                  |                                           |     |                                |                               |     |                       |                                   |     |
| BBL-501                        | Biblical Hermeneutics                     | 3   | BBL-511                        | Greek II                      | 3   | MIN-510               | Organizational Leadership         | 3   |
| BBL-510                        | Greek I                                   | 4   | MIN-500                        | Christian Spiritual Formation | 3   | General Elective      |                                   | 3   |
| THE-501                        | Program Introduction Seminar              | 2   | THE-640                        | Systematic Theology II        | 3   |                       |                                   |     |
| THE-540                        | Systematic Theology I                     | 3   | General Elective               |                               | 3   |                       |                                   |     |
|                                |                                           |     | MIN-543                        | Ed Mission of the Church      | 3   |                       |                                   |     |
|                                |                                           |     | or                             |                               |     |                       |                                   |     |
|                                |                                           |     | MIN-545                        | Teaching and Learning         |     |                       |                                   |     |
| <b>12</b>                      |                                           |     | <b>15</b>                      |                               |     | <b>6</b>              |                                   |     |
| FALL SEMESTER                  |                                           |     | J-TERM/SPRING SEMESTER         |                               |     | SUMMER SEMESTER       |                                   |     |
| NO.                            | COURSE                                    | CR. | NO.                            | COURSE                        | CR. | NO.                   | COURSE                            | CR. |
| <b>YEAR 2</b>                  |                                           |     |                                |                               |     |                       |                                   |     |
| BBL-516                        | Hebrew 1                                  | 4   | BBL-517                        | Hebrew II                     | 3   | BBL-640               | O.T. I: Exegesis in Hebrew Poetry | 3   |
| BBL-672                        | N.T. I: Introduction to Exegesis          | 3   | BBL-677                        | N.T. II: The Gospels          | 3   |                       |                                   |     |
| THE-641                        | Systematic Theology III                   | 3   | Historical Theology Elective   |                               | 3   |                       |                                   |     |
| MIN-560                        | Global Impact                             | 3   | Ministry Specialization Course |                               | 3   |                       |                                   |     |
| Ministry Residency I           |                                           | 2   | Ministry Residency II          |                               | 2   |                       |                                   |     |
| <b>15</b>                      |                                           |     | <b>14</b>                      |                               |     | <b>3</b>              |                                   |     |
| FALL SEMESTER                  |                                           |     | J-TERM/SPRING SEMESTER         |                               |     |                       |                                   |     |
| NO.                            | COURSE                                    | CR. | NO.                            | COURSE                        | CR. |                       |                                   |     |
| <b>YEAR 3</b>                  |                                           |     |                                |                               |     |                       |                                   |     |
| BBL-642                        | O.T. III: Prophets and Writings           | 3   | BBL-641                        | O.T. II: The Pentateuch       | 3   |                       |                                   |     |
| BBL-678                        | N.T. III- The General Epistles            | 3   | Historical Theology Elective   |                               | 3   |                       |                                   |     |
| THE-673                        | Moral Issues in Christian Life & Ministry | 3   | General Elective               |                               | 3   |                       |                                   |     |
| Ministry Specialization Course |                                           | 3   | Ministry Specialization Course |                               | 3   |                       |                                   |     |
| Ministry Residency III         |                                           | 2   | MIN-711                        | Program Completion Seminar    | 1   |                       |                                   |     |
|                                |                                           |     | Ministry Residency IV          |                               | 2   |                       |                                   |     |
| <b>14</b>                      |                                           |     | <b>15</b>                      |                               |     | <b>TOTAL HOURS 94</b> |                                   |     |

## Master of Divinity Specializations (choose one):

### *Pastoral Ministries*

MIN-530 Pastoral Competencies  
MIN-636 Homiletics I  
MIN-637 Homiletics II  
Ministry Residency

### *Church Planting*

MIN-537 Church Planting I  
MIN-538 Church Planting II  
MIN-660 Cultural Intelligence  
Ministry Residency

### *Youth Ministries*

MIN-553 Sociology of Adolescence  
MIN-641 Theology of Youth Ministry  
COU-520 Child and Adolescent Counseling  
Ministry Residency

### *Adult Ministries*

MIN-630 Small Group Ministries  
MIN-643 Educational Ministries for Adults  
Ministry Residency  
*One of the following:*  
MIN-554 Theology of Women in Ministry  
MIN-567 The Missional Church  
MIN-557 Introduction to Women's Studies  
COU-532 Counseling Women through the Life Cycle

### *Women's Studies*

MIN-554 Theology of Women in Ministry  
COU-532 Counseling Women through the Life Cycle  
MIN-557 Introduction to Women's Studies  
Ministry Residency

### *Intercultural Ministries*

MIN-567 Missional Church: Church and  
Culture—Past and Present  
MIN-660 Cultural Intelligence: Multicultural  
Understanding  
MIN-667 Urban and Local Development:  
Exegeting our Communities  
Ministry Residency

### *Counseling Ministries*

COU-500 Counseling Philosophy  
COU-510 Consulting  
COU-520 Child and Adolescent Counseling  
COU-521 Marriage and Family Counseling  
COU-610 Counseling Techniques

### *Chaplaincy Ministries*

MIN-525 Introduction to Chaplaincy  
MIN-636 Homiletics I  
COU-500 Counseling Philosophy  
COU-510 Consulting  
Ministry Elective

## Master of Divinity Degree Requirements

The Master of Divinity degree is conferred when the following conditions are met:

1. Completion of 94 semester hours with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average. Included are 68 hours of core curriculum, a 15-17 hour ministry specialization, and 9-11 hours of general elective credit.
2. Transfer students must achieve a minimum of 47 semester hours at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary.
3. Advanced standing credit is limited to 1/6 of the degree program requirements (15 hours).
4. Credits achieved on-line and/or by distance education are limited to a maximum of five courses within the degree program.
5. Evidence of personal commitment to Jesus Christ and a life pattern of moral character and conduct.
6. Completion of all assessments.
7. Participation in entrance, mid-point and exit assessments.
8. Submission of all student learning portfolio requirements.
9. The meeting of all financial obligations.
10. Satisfactory completion of Ministry Residency requirements.
11. Five years from matriculation are permitted to complete all degree requirements.
12. Participation in commencement.

## Master of Divinity Student Learning Outcomes

The Master of Divinity curriculum is designed to enable the student to:

### **Core Curriculum**

1. Conduct disciplined biblical interpretation and application with reference to the Greek and Hebrew texts.
2. State a basic understanding of the primary elements of Christian theology.
3. Demonstrate knowledge, values and practices essential to personal spiritual formation.
4. Exhibit knowledge, values and skills essential to effective ministerial and public leadership.
5. Demonstrate basic competency in cultural intelligence and cultural exegesis.

# MASTER OF ARTS

## (OLD TESTAMENT)

The Master of Arts in Old Testament is an academic degree designed to develop exegetical and theological competencies for the study of the Old Testament. This program may be utilized as a basis for advanced education, or as a foundation for other forms of Christian service. The program consists of 64 semester hours which emphasize the translation and interpretation of the Hebrew text, while also providing an introduction to the disciplines of theology. The curriculum has been designed around a core of basic studies in Bible and Theology, an Old Testament specialization which includes the option of a thesis and general elective credits. Applicants for the Master of Arts in Old Testament should possess a minimum 2.5 cumulative undergraduate grade point average from an accredited baccalaureate institution. For the student planning to enroll full time, the table below provides a detailed and specific curricular path. Those intending to enroll part-time will find valuable insights from this information for planning your ideal course sequencing.

| FALL SEMESTER                |                                    |           | J-TERM/SPRING SEMESTER     |                                    |           | SUMMER SEMESTER    |                                      |           |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| NO.                          | COURSE                             | CR.       | NO.                        | COURSE                             | CR.       | NO.                | COURSE                               | CR.       |
| <b>YEAR 1</b>                |                                    |           |                            |                                    |           |                    |                                      |           |
| BBL-501                      | Biblical Hermeneutics              | 3         | BBL-503                    | New Testament<br>Biblical Theology | 3         | BBL-640            | O.T. I: Exegesis in Hebrew<br>Poetry | 3         |
| BBL-502                      | Old Testament<br>Biblical Theology | 3         | BBL-517                    | Hebrew II                          | 3         | General Elective   |                                      | 3         |
| BBL-510                      | Hebrew I                           | 4         | Old Testament Elective     |                                    | 3         |                    |                                      |           |
| THE-501                      | Program Introduction Seminar       | 2         | THE-540                    | Systematic Theology I              | 3         |                    |                                      |           |
|                              |                                    |           | Ministry Theology Elective |                                    | 3         |                    |                                      |           |
|                              |                                    | <b>12</b> |                            |                                    | <b>15</b> |                    |                                      | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>YEAR 2</b>                |                                    |           |                            |                                    |           |                    |                                      |           |
| BBL-642                      | O.T. III: Prophets and Writings    | 3         | BBL-641                    | O.T. II: Pentateuch                | 3         |                    |                                      |           |
| Old Testament Elective       |                                    | 3         | Old Testament Elective     |                                    | 3         |                    |                                      |           |
| Old Testament Elective       |                                    | 3         | Old Testament Elective     |                                    | 3         |                    |                                      |           |
| Historical Theology Elective |                                    | 3         | Theology Elective          |                                    | 3         |                    |                                      |           |
| General Elective             |                                    | 3         | MIN-711                    | Program Completion Seminar         | 1         |                    |                                      |           |
|                              |                                    |           | General Elective           |                                    | 3         |                    |                                      |           |
|                              |                                    | <b>15</b> |                            |                                    | <b>16</b> | <b>TOTAL HOURS</b> |                                      | <b>64</b> |



## Master of Arts (Old Testament) Degree Requirements

The Master of Arts (Old Testament) degree is conferred when the following conditions are met:

1. Completion of 64 semester hours with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average. Included are 24 hours of core curriculum, a 31-hour Old Testament concentration and nine hours of general elective credit.
2. A minimum of 32 semester hours must be achieved at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary by transfer students.
3. Advanced standing credit is limited to 1/6 of the degree program requirements (10 hours).
4. Credits achieved on-line and/or by distance education are limited to a maximum of five courses within the degree program.
5. Evidence of personal commitment to Jesus Christ and a life pattern of moral character and conduct.
6. Completion of all assessments.
7. Participation in entrance, mid-point and exit assessments.
8. Submission of all student learning portfolio requirements.
9. Successful completion of the program thesis when applicable.
10. The meeting of all financial obligations.
11. Five years from matriculation are permitted to complete all degree requirements.
12. Participation in commencement.
13. Graduates of this degree program will be given the option to receive their diploma from Grand Rapids Theological Seminary or Cornerstone University.

## Master of Arts (Old Testament) Student Learning Outcomes

The Master of Arts (Old Testament) curriculum is designed to enable the student to:

1. Read with the use of lexical tools the prose and poetry of the Hebrew Bible.
2. Exegete the Hebrew Bible.
3. State in a synthetic fashion the domain of Old Testament studies.
4. Read the Old Testament against its ancient Near Eastern background.
5. Demonstrate research and writing skills in Old Testament Studies.

# MASTER OF ARTS

(*NEW TESTAMENT*)

The Master of Arts in New Testament is an academic degree designed to develop exegetical and theological competencies for the study of the New Testament. This program may be utilized as a basis for advanced education, or as a foundation for other forms of Christian service. The program consists of 64 semester hours that emphasize the translation and interpretation of the Greek text, while also providing an introduction to the disciplines of theology. The curriculum has been designed around a core of basic studies in Bible and theology, a New Testament specialization which includes the option of a thesis and general elective credits. Applicants for the Master of Arts in New Testament should possess a minimum 2.5 cumulative undergraduate grade point average from an accredited baccalaureate institution. For the student planning to enroll full time, the table below provides a detailed and specific curricular path. Those intending to enroll part-time will find valuable insights from this information for planning your ideal course sequencing.

| FALL SEMESTER |                                  |           | J-TERM/SPRING SEMESTER |                                 |           | SUMMER SEMESTER    |                        |           |
|---------------|----------------------------------|-----------|------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------|
| NO.           | COURSE                           | CR.       | NO.                    | COURSE                          | CR.       | NO.                | COURSE                 | CR.       |
| <b>YEAR 1</b> |                                  |           |                        |                                 |           |                    |                        |           |
| BBL-501       | Biblical Hermeneutics            | 3         | BBL-503                | New Testament Biblical Theology | 3         |                    | New Testament Elective | 3         |
| BBL-502       | Old Testament Biblical Theology  | 3         | BBL-511                | Greek II                        | 3         |                    | General Elective       | 3         |
| BBL-510       | Greek I                          | 4         | THE-540                | Systematic Theology I           | 3         |                    |                        |           |
| THE-501       | Program Introduction Seminar     | 2         |                        | Ministry Elective               | 3         |                    |                        |           |
|               |                                  |           |                        | General Elective                | 3         |                    |                        |           |
|               |                                  | <b>12</b> |                        |                                 | <b>15</b> |                    |                        | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>YEAR 2</b> |                                  |           |                        |                                 |           |                    |                        |           |
| BBL-672       | N.T. I: Introduction to Exegesis | 3         | BBL-677                | N.T. II: The Gospels            | 3         |                    |                        |           |
| BBL-678       | N.T. III: The General Epistles   | 3         |                        | New Testament Elective          | 3         |                    |                        |           |
|               | New Testament Elective           | 3         |                        | New Testament Elective          | 3         |                    |                        |           |
|               | New Testament Elective           | 3         | MIN-711                | Program Completion Seminar      | 1         |                    |                        |           |
|               | Historical Theology Elective     | 3         |                        | General Elective                | 3         |                    |                        |           |
|               |                                  |           |                        | Theology Elective               | 3         |                    |                        |           |
|               |                                  | <b>15</b> |                        |                                 | <b>16</b> | <b>TOTAL HOURS</b> |                        | <b>64</b> |

## Master of Arts (New Testament) Degree Requirements

The Master of Arts (New Testament) degree is conferred when the following conditions are met:

1. Completion of 64 semester hours with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average. Included are 24 hours of core curriculum, a 31-hour New Testament concentration, and nine hours of general elective credit.
2. A minimum of 32 semester hours must be achieved at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary by transfer students.
3. Advanced standing credit is limited to 1/6 of the degree program requirements (10 hours).
4. Credits achieved on-line and/or by distance education are limited to a maximum of five courses within the degree program.
5. Evidence of personal commitment to Jesus Christ and a life pattern of moral character and conduct.
6. Completion of all assessments.
7. Participation in entrance, mid-point and exit assessments.
8. Submission of all student learning portfolio requirements.
9. Successful completion of the program thesis when applicable.
10. The meeting of all financial obligations.
11. Five years from matriculation are permitted to complete all degree requirements.
12. Participation in commencement.
13. Graduates of this degree program will be given the option to receive their diploma from Grand Rapids Theological Seminary or Cornerstone University.

## Master of Arts (New Testament) Student Learning Outcomes

The Master of Arts (New Testament) curriculum is designed to enable the student to:

1. Translate the Greek New Testament with the use of lexical tools.
2. Apply exegetical procedures to the New Testament text.
3. Make interpretive judgments with an understanding of the various genre of the New Testament
4. Demonstrate research and writing skills in New Testament studies.

# MASTER OF ARTS *(HISTORICAL THEOLOGY)*

The Master of Arts in Historical Theology is an academic degree designed to develop competencies essential to the academic study of the history of Christian doctrine and spirituality in preparation for admission to a doctoral program and teaching at church-related colleges and seminaries. The program consists of 65 semester hours which emphasize the historical development of Christian doctrine and spirituality, the study of ancient languages, and the use of critical methodology in biblical and historical studies, plus a modern language exam and an M.A. Historical Theology comprehensive exam. The program has been designed around a core of basic biblical and theological studies, a historical theology specialization and advanced elective credits. Applicants for the Master of Arts in Historical Theology must possess a minimum 3.5 cumulative undergraduate grade point average from a regionally accredited baccalaureate institution. (The student must also have achieved a minimum 3.5 grade point average in any undergraduate coursework taken in biblical and theological studies.) A minimum 3.3 cumulative grade point average is required for graduation; any student admitted to the Master of Arts in Historical Theology whose grade point average falls below 3.0 in any two semesters during the course of study may be dismissed from the program. For the student planning to enroll full time, the table below provides a detailed and specific curricular path. Those intending to enroll part-time will find valuable insights from this information for planning your ideal course sequencing.

| FALL SEMESTER |                                                   |     | J-TERM/SPRING SEMESTER |                                             |     |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----|------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----|
| NO.           | COURSE                                            | CR. | NO.                    | COURSE                                      | CR. |
| <b>YEAR 1</b> |                                                   |     |                        |                                             |     |
| BBL-510       | Greek I                                           | 4   | BBL-501                | Biblical Hermeneutics                       | 3   |
| BBL-516       | Hebrew I                                          | 4   | BBL-511                | Greek II                                    | 3   |
| THE-501       | Program Introduction Seminar                      | 2   | BBL-517                | Hebrew II                                   | 3   |
| THE-515       | Historical Theology I                             | 3   | THE-516                | Historical Theology II                      | 3   |
| <b>13</b>     |                                                   |     | <b>12</b>              |                                             |     |
| FALL SEMESTER |                                                   |     | J-TERM/SPRING SEMESTER |                                             |     |
| NO.           | COURSE                                            | CR. | NO.                    | COURSE                                      | CR. |
| <b>YEAR 2</b> |                                                   |     |                        |                                             |     |
| BBL-640       | O.T. I: Exegesis in Hebrew Poetry                 | 3   | BBL-641                | O.T. II: Pentateuch                         | 3   |
| BBL-672       | N.T. I: Introduction to Exegesis                  | 3   | BBL-677                | N.T. II: The Gospels                        | 3   |
| THE-517       | Historical Theology III                           | 3   | THE-518                | Historical Theology IV                      | 3   |
|               | Historical Theology Seminar                       | 3   |                        | Historical Theology Seminar                 | 3   |
|               |                                                   |     |                        | Advanced (700-level) Elective in BBL or THE | 3   |
| <b>12</b>     |                                                   |     | <b>15</b>              |                                             |     |
| FALL SEMESTER |                                                   |     |                        |                                             |     |
| NO.           | COURSE                                            | CR. |                        |                                             |     |
| <b>YEAR 3</b> |                                                   |     |                        |                                             |     |
| BBL-678       | N.T. III: The General Epistles                    | 3   |                        |                                             |     |
|               | Elective Greek Language or Exegesis of Greek N.T. | 3   |                        |                                             |     |
|               | Advanced (700-level) Elective in BBL or THE       | 3   |                        |                                             |     |
|               | Advanced (700-level) Elective in BBL or THE       | 3   |                        |                                             |     |
| MIN-711       | Program Completion Seminar                        | 3   |                        |                                             |     |
| <b>13</b>     |                                                   |     | <b>TOTAL HOURS 65</b>  |                                             |     |

Historical Theology Seminars (choose two of the following three):

THE-710 Augustine

THE-710 Prayer and Spirituality in Early Church

THE-710 Calvin

## Modern Language Exam

In the last semester of coursework or within six months following the completion of coursework, the student must complete a two-hour examination in French or German, using a dictionary to translate a two-page selection from a contemporary periodical article dealing with a topic in historical theology. The translation will be graded "Pass" or "Fail." In the case of failure, the student may retake the exam. In the event of a passing grade, a photocopy of the exam and the letter notifying the student of a passing grade on the exam will be included in the student's academic file to document completion of the modern language exam requirement.

## Master of Arts (Historical Theology) Comprehensive Exam

In the last semester of coursework or within six months following the completion of coursework, the student must write a four-hour comprehensive exam, which will be graded by two examiners. A list of possible exam questions (with a corresponding bibliography for each question) may be found on the GRTS Web site. The particular questions to be assigned from the list will be determined after a consultation of the student's transcript, assigning questions dealing with major program knowledge competencies that have not previously been directly evaluated through written coursework. In the event of a passing grade, a photocopy of the exam and the letter notifying the student of a passing grade on the exam will be included within the student's academic file to document completion of the comprehensive exam requirement. In the event of a failing mark, the student may retake the exam (or portions thereof) once (normally within three months of the first attempt and no more than a year after the first attempt). Candidates who fail the examination twice may not take it a third time.

## Master of Arts (Historical Theology) Degree Requirements

The Master of Arts (Historical Theology) degree is conferred when the following conditions are met:

1. Completion of 65 semester hours with a minimum 3.3 cumulative grade point average. Included are 38 hours of core curriculum, an 18-hour Historical Theology concentration and 9 hours of advanced elective credit in Bible or theology.

2. A minimum of 33 semester hours must be achieved at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary by transfer students.
3. Advanced standing credit is limited to 1/6 of the degree program requirements (10 hours).
4. Credits achieved by distance education are limited to a maximum of five courses (15 hours).
5. Successful completion of modern language exam.
6. Successful completion of Master of Arts (Historical Theology) comprehensive exam.
7. Evidence of personal commitment to Jesus Christ and a life pattern of moral character and conduct.
8. Completion of all assessments.
9. Participation in entrance, midpoint and exit assessments.
10. Submission of all student learning portfolio requirements.
11. The meeting of all financial obligations.
12. Five years from matriculation are permitted to complete all degree program requirements.
13. Participation in commencement.
14. Graduates of this degree program will be given the option to receive their diploma from Grand Rapids Theological Seminary or Cornerstone University.

## Master of Arts (Historical Theology) Student Learning Outcomes

The Master of Arts (Historical Theology) curriculum is designed to enable the student to:

### Core Curriculum

1. Conduct disciplined biblical interpretation and application with reference to the Greek and Hebrew texts.
2. State a basic understanding of the primary elements of Christian theology.

### Historical Theology Major

1. Describe the major periods in church history and their contributions to the development of the Christian theological tradition.
2. State the ideas of key theologians within the history of the Church.
3. Demonstrate critical theological reflection upon the development of doctrine within the principal divisions of the Western theological tradition.
4. Demonstrate research and writing skills in historical theology.

# MASTER OF ARTS (SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY)

The Master of Arts in Systematic Theology is an academic degree designed to develop competencies essential to the study of systematic theology. This program may be utilized as a basis for advanced education, or as a foundation for other forms of Christian service. The program consists of 63 semester hours that emphasize a comprehensive review and critical analysis of systematic theology within the Christian tradition, while also providing an introduction to the other disciplines of theology. The curriculum has been designed around a core of basic studies in Bible and Theology, a systematic theology specialization that includes the option of a thesis and general elective credits. Applicants for the Master of Arts in Systematic Theology should possess a minimum 2.5 cumulative undergraduate grade point average from an accredited baccalaureate institution. For the student planning to enroll full-time, the table below provides a detailed and specific curricular path. Those intending to enroll part-time will find valuable insights from this information for planning your ideal course sequencing.

| FALL SEMESTER        |                                       |           | J-TERM/SPRING SEMESTER        |                                       |           | SUMMER SEMESTER    |                        |           |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------|
| NO.                  | COURSE                                | CR.       | NO.                           | COURSE                                | CR.       | NO.                | COURSE                 | CR.       |
| <b>YEAR 1</b>        |                                       |           |                               |                                       |           |                    |                        |           |
| BBL-501              | Biblical Hermeneutics                 | 3         | BBL-503                       | New Testament Biblical Theology       | 3         | THE-640            | Systematic Theology II | 3         |
| BBL-502              | Old Testament Biblical Theology       | 3         |                               | Systematic Theology Seminar/Elective  | 3         |                    | General Elective       | 3         |
| THE-501              | Program Introduction Seminar          | 2         |                               | Systematic Theology Seminar/Elective  | 3         |                    |                        |           |
| THE-540              | Systematic Theology I                 | 3         |                               | Historical Theology Elective          | 3         |                    |                        |           |
|                      | Systematic Theology Seminar/Elective  | 3         |                               | General Elective                      | 3         |                    |                        |           |
|                      |                                       | <b>14</b> |                               |                                       | <b>15</b> |                    |                        | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>FALL SEMESTER</b> |                                       |           | <b>J-TERM/SPRING SEMESTER</b> |                                       |           |                    |                        |           |
| NO.                  | COURSE                                | CR.       | NO.                           | COURSE                                | CR.       |                    |                        |           |
| <b>YEAR 2</b>        |                                       |           |                               |                                       |           |                    |                        |           |
| THE-641              | Systematic Theology III               | 3         |                               | Theology Elective                     | 3         |                    |                        |           |
|                      | Systematic Theology Seminary/Elective | 3         |                               | Systematic Theology Seminary/Elective | 3         |                    |                        |           |
|                      | Systematic Theology Seminary/Elective | 3         |                               | Systematic Theology Seminary/Elective | 3         |                    |                        |           |
|                      | OR                                    |           |                               | Systematic Theology Seminary/Elective | 3         |                    |                        |           |
| THE-584              | Thesis Readings (Thesis Track)        |           |                               | OR                                    |           |                    |                        |           |
|                      | Ministry Elective                     | 3         |                               | THE-792 M.A. Thesis (Thesis Track)    |           |                    |                        |           |
|                      | General Elective                      | 3         | MIN-711                       | Program Completion Seminar            | 1         |                    |                        |           |
|                      |                                       | <b>15</b> |                               |                                       | <b>13</b> | <b>TOTAL HOURS</b> |                        | <b>63</b> |

Systematic Theology Seminars and elective options (Choose 24 hours):

|         |                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| THE-515 | Historical Theology I: The Early Church                                                                                                                                                  |
| THE-516 | Historical Theology II: The Medieval Church                                                                                                                                              |
| THE-517 | Historical Theology III: The Reformation Church                                                                                                                                          |
| THE-518 | Historical Theology IV: The Modern Church                                                                                                                                                |
| THE-710 | Seminars in the History of Christian Thought: Augustine, Barth, Calvin, Prayer and Spirituality in the Early Church, The Puritans and Theology of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries |
| THE-552 | The Doctrine of Man and Sin (Extension)                                                                                                                                                  |
| THE-653 | The Doctrine of Salvation (Extension)                                                                                                                                                    |
| THE-657 | Doctrine of the Trinity (Extension)                                                                                                                                                      |

## Master of Arts (Systematic Theology) Degree Requirements

The Master of Arts (Systematic Theology) degree is conferred when the following conditions are met:

1. Completion of 63 semester hours with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average. Included are 21 hours of core curriculum, a 33-hour Systematic Theology concentration, and nine hours of general elective credit.
2. A minimum of 32 semester hours must be achieved at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary by transfer students.
3. Advanced standing credit is limited to 1/6 of the degree program requirements (10 hours).
4. Credits achieved on-line and/or by distance education are limited to a maximum of five courses within the degree program.
5. Evidence of personal commitment to Jesus Christ and a life pattern of moral character and conduct.
6. Completion of all assessments.
7. Participation in entrance, mid-point and exit assessments.
8. Submission of all student learning portfolio requirements.
9. Successful completion of the program thesis when applicable.
10. The meeting of all financial obligations.
11. Five years from matriculation are permitted to complete all degree requirements.
12. Participation in commencement.
13. Graduates of this degree program will be given the option to receive their diploma from Grand Rapids Theological Seminary or Cornerstone University.

## Master of Arts (Systematic Theology) Student Learning Outcomes

The Master of Arts (Systematic Theology) curriculum is designed to enable the student to:

### Core Curriculum

1. Conduct basic biblical interpretation and application with reference to the English Bible texts.
2. State a basic understanding of the primary elements of Christian theology.
3. Demonstrate basic knowledge, values and competencies associated with spiritual, worldview and leadership formation.

### Systematic Theology Major

1. State and explain the task of theology, including the nature of the theological encyclopedia and the appropriate method for doing theology.
2. Critically analyze the development of major doctrines within the principal divisions of the Western theological tradition.
3. Explain the principal ideas advanced by major contributors to the Western theological tradition.
4. Critically analyze various theological problems and successfully argue for a position.
5. Demonstrate research and writing skills in the area of systematic theology.

# MASTER OF ARTS IN COUNSELING

The Master of Arts in Counseling is designed to develop basic skills in biblical and theological interpretation, competency in the foundational theories and skills essential to the practice of counseling and the academic base for state licensure. The Master of Arts in Counseling is a 72-semester-hour degree program consisting of a 24-hour core in Bible and theology, a 39-hour concentration in counseling, and a 9-hour cognate (i.e., Youth Ministries, Women’s Ministries, Adult Ministries, Biblical Studies, Theological Studies, Interdisciplinary Studies, or Thesis Track). The counseling concentration includes counseling philosophy and theory, techniques and skill development and participatory learning through a practicum and two internships. A thesis is also optional for the individual intending to pursue advanced study at the doctoral level. Applicants for this degree should possess a minimum 2.5 cumulative undergraduate grade point average from an accredited baccalaureate institution. For students planning to enroll full-time the table below provides a detailed and specific curricular path. Those intending to enroll part-time will find valuable insights from this information for planning your ideal course sequencing.

| FALL SEMESTER |                               |           | J-TERM/SPRING SEMESTER |                                |                       | SUMMER SEMESTER |                                 |          |
|---------------|-------------------------------|-----------|------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|----------|
| NO.           | COURSE                        | CR.       | NO.                    | COURSE                         | CR.                   | NO.             | COURSE                          | CR.      |
| <b>YEAR 1</b> |                               |           |                        |                                |                       |                 |                                 |          |
| BBL-501       | Biblical Hermeneutics         | 3         | THE-540                | Systematic Theology I          | 3                     | BBL-502         | Old Testament Biblical Theology | 3        |
| MIN-500       | Christian Spiritual Formation | 3         | COU-501                | Counseling Theories            | 3                     | THE-640         | Systematic Theology II          | 3        |
| COU-500       | Counseling Philosophy         | 3         | COU-521                | Marriage and Family Counseling | 3                     |                 |                                 |          |
| COU-502       | Counseling Ethics and Issues  | 3         | COU-610                | Counseling Techniques          | 3                     |                 |                                 |          |
|               |                               |           | Cognate Course         |                                | 3                     |                 |                                 |          |
|               |                               | <b>12</b> |                        |                                | <b>15</b>             |                 |                                 | <b>6</b> |
| FALL SEMESTER |                               |           | J-TERM/SPRING SEMESTER |                                |                       | SUMMER SEMESTER |                                 |          |
| NO.           | COURSE                        | CR.       | NO.                    | COURSE                         | CR.                   | NO.             | COURSE                          | CR.      |
| <b>YEAR 2</b> |                               |           |                        |                                |                       |                 |                                 |          |
|               | Bible Elective                | 3         | COU-611                | Career Development             | 3                     | BBL-503         | New Testament Biblical Theology | 3        |
| THE-641       | Systematic Theology III       | 3         | COU-612                | Group Techniques               | 3                     | COU-784         | Internship I: Counseling        | 3        |
| COU-510       | Consulting                    | 3         | COU-782                | Practicum: Counseling          | 3                     |                 |                                 |          |
| COU-601       | Testing Procedures            | 3         | Cognate Course         |                                | 3                     |                 |                                 |          |
|               | Cognate Course                | 3         |                        |                                |                       |                 |                                 |          |
|               |                               | <b>15</b> |                        |                                | <b>12</b>             |                 |                                 | <b>6</b> |
| FALL SEMESTER |                               |           |                        |                                |                       |                 |                                 |          |
| NO.           | COURSE                        | CR.       |                        |                                |                       |                 |                                 |          |
| <b>YEAR 3</b> |                               |           |                        |                                |                       |                 |                                 |          |
| COU-700       | Research Methodology          | 3         |                        |                                |                       |                 |                                 |          |
| COU-785       | Internship II: Counseling     | 3         |                        |                                |                       |                 |                                 |          |
|               |                               | <b>6</b>  |                        |                                | <b>TOTAL HOURS 72</b> |                 |                                 |          |



## Master of Arts in Counseling Cognates (choose one):

### *Youth Ministries*

MIN-553 Sociology of Adolescence  
 MIN-641 Theology of Youth Ministry  
 COU-520 Child and Adolescent Counseling

### *Women's Studies*

MIN-554 Theology of Women in Ministry  
 COU-532 Counseling Women through the Life Cycle  
 MIN-557 Introduction to Women's Studies

### *Adult Ministries*

MIN-630 Small Group Ministries  
 MIN-643 Educational Ministries for Adults

### *One of the following:*

MIN-554 Theology of Women in Ministry  
 MIN-567 The Missional Church  
 MIN-557 Introduction to Women's Studies  
 COU-532 Counseling Women through the Life Cycle

### *Biblical Studies*

Three course cluster in Bible (BBL) selected with consultation of faculty advisor.

### *Theological Studies*

Three course cluster in Theology (THE) selected with consultation of faculty advisor.

### *Interdisciplinary Studies*

Three course cluster from any disciplinary area (BBL, THE, MIN, and/or COU) selected with consultation of faculty advisor.

### *M.A. Thesis Track*

Two course cluster which includes a three credit thesis readings course (COU-584) and a six credit M.A. thesis course (COU-792).

## Master of Arts in Counseling Degree Requirements

The Master of Arts in Counseling degree is conferred when the following conditions are met:

1. Completion of 72 semester hours with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average. Included are a 24 hour Bible and theology core, 39 hour counseling core, and a 9 hour cognate.
2. A minimum of 36 semester hours must be achieved at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary by transfer students.
3. Advanced standing credit is limited to 1/6 of the degree program requirements (12 hours).
4. Credits achieved online and/or by distance education are limited to a maximum of five courses within the degree program.
5. Evidence of personal commitment to Jesus Christ and a life pattern of moral character and conduct.
6. Completion of all assessments.
7. Participation in entrance, mid-point and exit assessments.

8. Submission of all student learning portfolio requirements.
9. Successful completion of the practicum and internship requirements.
10. The meeting of all financial obligations.
11. Five years from matriculation are permitted to complete all degree requirements.
12. Participation in commencement.
13. Graduates of this degree program will have the option of receiving a Cornerstone University diploma.

## Master of Arts in Counseling Student Learning Outcomes

The Master of Arts in Counseling curriculum is designed to enable the student to:

### Core Curriculum

1. Conduct basic biblical interpretation and application with reference to the English Bible texts.
2. State a basic understanding of the primary elements of Christian theology.
3. Demonstrate knowledge, values and practices essential to personal spiritual formation.
4. Exhibit knowledge, values and skills essential to effective ministerial and public leadership.
5. Demonstrate basic competency in cultural intelligence and cultural exegesis.

### Counseling Major

1. State a personal philosophy of counseling that reflects awareness of personal beliefs, foundational theories, and worldview integration.
2. Facilitate the counseling process for individuals, groups and/or families by providing consultations that foster awareness, growth and restoration that is based on established client centered goals and a sound systemic framework.
3. Articulate and apply effective counseling strategies reflecting practical techniques and multicultural applications.
4. Demonstrate understanding and competency in the use of testing instruments and research interpretation in appraisal and diagnosis.
5. Demonstrate theoretical understanding and basic competency in career development counseling.
6. Exhibit understanding and compliance with the legal requirements and ethical codes of the counseling profession.

# MASTER OF ARTS IN EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES

The Master of Arts in Educational Ministries is designed to develop basic competencies essential to the study of the Bible and related theological literature, while also nurturing knowledge and skill development in the enactment of educational ministry leadership. The program consists of 65-semester hours, which includes a 32-hour Bible and theology core and a 33-hour educational ministries specialization. In addition to foundational courses, the educational ministries specialization consists of a nine-hour ministry cognate (youth ministries, women's ministries, adult ministries or interdisciplinary studies) and an eight-hour ministry residency (contextual learning under the supervision of a seasoned ministry mentor). The eight-hour ministry residency can be replaced with MIN-584, MIN-797 and elective credits for the student intending to pursue doctoral study. Applicants for this degree program should possess a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average from an accredited baccalaureate institution. For the student planning to enroll full-time, the table below provides a detailed and specific curricular path. Those intending to enroll part-time will find valuable insights from this information for planning your ideal course sequencing.

| FALL SEMESTER |                                 |           | J-TERM/SPRING SEMESTER |                                       |           | SUMMER SEMESTER    |                                |           |
|---------------|---------------------------------|-----------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| NO.           | COURSE                          | CR.       | NO.                    | COURSE                                | CR.       | NO.                | COURSE                         | CR.       |
| <b>YEAR 1</b> |                                 |           |                        |                                       |           |                    |                                |           |
| BBL-501       | Biblical Hermeneutics           | 3         | BBL-503                | New Testament Biblical Theology       | 3         |                    | Bible Elective                 | 3         |
| BBL-502       | Old Testament Biblical Theology | 3         | MIN-500                | Christian Spiritual Formation         | 3         |                    | THE-640 Systematic Theology II | 3         |
| THE-501       | Program Introduction Seminar    | 2         | MIN-543                | Educational Mission of the Church     | 3         |                    | Ministry Residency 2           | 2         |
| THE-540       | Systematic Theology I           | 3         |                        | Ministry Cognate                      | 3         |                    |                                |           |
| MIN-560       | Global Impact                   | 3         |                        | Ministry Residency 1                  | 2         |                    |                                |           |
|               |                                 | <b>14</b> |                        |                                       | <b>14</b> |                    |                                | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>YEAR 2</b> |                                 |           |                        |                                       |           |                    |                                |           |
|               | Bible Elective                  | 3         |                        | Historical Theology I, II, III, or IV | 3         |                    |                                |           |
| THE-641       | Systematic Theology III         | 3         |                        | Theology Elective                     | 3         |                    |                                |           |
| MIN-545       | Teaching & Learning             | 3         | MIN-510                | Organizational Leadership             | 3         |                    |                                |           |
|               | Ministry Cognate                | 3         | MIN-711                | Program Completion Seminar            | 1         |                    |                                |           |
|               | Ministry Residency 3            | 2         |                        | Ministry Cognate                      | 3         |                    |                                |           |
|               |                                 |           |                        | Ministry Residency 4                  | 2         |                    |                                |           |
|               |                                 | <b>14</b> |                        |                                       | <b>15</b> | <b>TOTAL HOURS</b> |                                | <b>65</b> |

## Master Of Arts in Educational Ministries Cognates

(choose one):

### *Youth Ministries*

MIN-553 Sociology of Adolescence  
MIN-641 Theology of Youth Ministry  
COU-520 Child and Adolescent Counseling

### *Women's Studies*

MIN-554 Theology of Women in Ministry  
MIN-557 Introduction to Women's Studies  
COU-532 Counseling Women through the Life Cycle

### *Adult Ministries*

MIN-630 Small Group Ministries  
MIN-643 Educational Ministries for Adults

### *One of the following:*

MIN-554 Theology of Women in Ministry  
MIN-567 The Missional Church  
MIN-557 Introduction to Women's Studies  
COU-532 Counseling Women through the Life Cycle

### *Interdisciplinary Studies*

Three course cluster from ministry disciplines (MIN and/or COU) selected with consultation of faculty advisor.

## Master of Arts in Educational Ministries Degree Requirements

The Master of Arts in Educational Ministries degree is conferred when the following conditions are met:

1. Completion of 65 semester hours with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average. Included are a 15-hour Bible core, 17-hour theology core and a 33-hour educational ministries specialization.
2. A minimum of 33 semester hours must be achieved at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary by transfer students.
3. Advanced standing credit is limited to 1/6 of the degree program requirements (10 hours).
4. Credits achieved by on-line and/or by distance education are limited to a maximum of five courses within the degree program.
5. Evidence of personal commitment to Jesus Christ and a life pattern of moral character and conduct.
6. Completion of all assessments.
7. Participation in entrance, mid-point and exit assessments.
8. Submission of all student learning portfolio requirements.
9. Successful completion of the Ministry Residency requirement or M.A. thesis component.
10. The meeting of all financial obligations.
11. Five years from matriculation are permitted to complete all degree requirements.
12. Participation in commencement.

## Master of Arts in Educational Ministries Student Learning Outcomes

The Master of Arts in Educational Ministries curriculum is designed to enable the student to:

### **Core Curriculum**

1. Conduct basic biblical interpretation and application with reference to the English Bible texts.
2. State a basic understanding of the primary elements of Christian theology.
3. Demonstrate knowledge, values and practices essential to personal spiritual formation.
4. Exhibit knowledge, values and skills essential to effective ministerial and public leadership.
5. Demonstrate basic competency in cultural intelligence and cultural exegesis.

### **Educational Ministries Major**

1. Synthesize the historic biblical and theological perspectives that inform the church's task for educational ministries.
2. Evaluate teaching and learning theories for the purpose of crafting a distinctly Christian philosophy of educating God's people.
3. Identify and demonstrate the skills necessary for the effective communication of biblical truth in order that Christian character may be formed.
4. Demonstrate an awareness of the developmental tasks in life cycles in order to contextualize appropriate strategies for addressing human needs.
5. Analyze current societal realities with implication for conceiving of effective educational ministries in today's world.
6. Demonstrate proficiency to direct people and programs necessary for effective educational ministries.

# MASTER OF ARTS IN INTERCULTURAL MINISTRIES

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The Master of Arts in Intercultural Ministries is designed to develop basic competencies essential to the study of biblical and theological literature, while also nurturing knowledge and skill development in the enactment of ministry leadership in intercultural settings. The program consists of 65 semester hours, which includes a 33-hour Bible and theology core and a 32-hour intercultural ministries specialization. The eight-hour ministry residency requirement can be replaced with MIN-584 Thesis Readings and MIN-797 Thesis for the student intending to pursue doctoral study. Applicants for this degree program should possess a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average from an accredited baccalaureate institution. For the student planning to enroll full-time, the table below provides a detailed and specific curricular path. Those intending to enroll part-time will find valuable insights from this information for planning your ideal course sequencing.

| FALL SEMESTER |                                 |           | J-TERM/SPRING SEMESTER |                                       |           | SUMMER SEMESTER |                           |           |
|---------------|---------------------------------|-----------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| NO.           | COURSE                          | CR.       | NO.                    | COURSE                                | CR.       | NO.             | COURSE                    | CR.       |
| <b>YEAR 1</b> |                                 |           |                        |                                       |           |                 |                           |           |
| BBL-501       | Biblical Hermeneutics           | 3         | BBL-503                | New Testament Biblical Theology       | 3         |                 | Bible Elective            | 3         |
| BBL-502       | Old Testament Biblical Theology | 3         | THE-640                | Systematic Theology II                | 3         | MIN-510         | Organizational Leadership | 3         |
| THE-501       | Program Introduction Seminar    | 2         |                        | Theology Elective                     | 3         |                 |                           |           |
| THE-540       | Systematic Theology I           | 3         | MIN-500                | Christian Spiritual Formation         | 3         |                 |                           |           |
| MIN-560       | Global Impact                   | 3         | MIN-543                | Educational Mission of the Church     | 3         |                 |                           |           |
|               |                                 | <b>14</b> |                        |                                       | <b>15</b> |                 |                           | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>YEAR 2</b> |                                 |           |                        |                                       |           |                 |                           |           |
| MIN-660       | Cultural Intelligence           | 3         | THE-641                | Systematic Theology III               | 3         |                 |                           |           |
|               | Ministry Residency 1-4          | 8         |                        | Historical Theology I, II, III, or IV | 3         |                 |                           |           |
|               | Bible Elective                  | 3         | MIN-545                | Teaching & Learning                   | 3         |                 |                           |           |
|               |                                 |           | MIN-567                | Missional Church                      | 3         |                 |                           |           |
|               |                                 |           | MIN-667                | Urban and Local Development           | 3         |                 |                           |           |
|               |                                 |           | MIN-711                | Program Completion Seminar            | 1         |                 |                           |           |
|               |                                 | <b>14</b> |                        |                                       | <b>16</b> |                 | <b>TOTAL HOURS</b>        | <b>65</b> |

## Master of Arts in Intercultural Ministries Degree Requirements

The Master of Arts in Intercultural Ministries degree is conferred when the following conditions are met:

1. Completion of 65 semester hours with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average. Included are a 15-hour Bible core and 17-hour theology core, and a 33-hour concentration in intercultural ministries.
2. A minimum of 33 semester hours must be achieved at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary by transfer students.
3. Advanced standing credit is limited to 1/6 of the degree program requirements (10 hours).
4. Credits achieved by on-line and/or by distance education are limited to a maximum of five courses within the degree program.
5. Evidence of personal commitment to Jesus Christ and a life pattern of moral character and conduct.
6. Completion of all assessments.
7. Participation in entrance, mid-point and exit assessments.
8. Submission of all student learning portfolio requirements.
9. Successful completion of the ministry residency or thesis component.
10. The meeting of all financial obligations.
11. Five years from matriculation are permitted to complete all degree requirements.
12. Participation in commencement.

## Master of Arts in Intercultural Ministries Student Learning Outcomes

The Master of Arts in Intercultural Ministries curriculum is designed to enable the student to:

### Core Curriculum

1. Conduct basic biblical interpretation and application with reference to the English Bible texts.
2. State a basic understanding of the primary elements of Christian theology.
3. Demonstrate knowledge, values and practices essential to personal spiritual formation.
4. Exhibit knowledge, values and skills essential to effective ministerial and public leadership.
5. Demonstrate basic competency in cultural intelligence and cultural exegesis.

### *Intercultural Ministries Major*

1. Develop a philosophy and practice of mission which is informed by biblical, theological and cultural perspectives.
2. Be skillful in demonstrating and facilitating cultural intelligence by seeing the influence of culture upon theological understanding, personal formation and missional engagement.
3. Evaluate and apply traditional and emerging models of intercultural work and ministry.
4. Understand historical and contemporary demonstrations of how the church has related to culture and how the church has engaged in global mission.
5. Serve the global church by continual formation of one's own character, embodying the gospel in both word and deed and by partnering with various expressions of the local church all over the world.

# MASTER OF ARTS IN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

The Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies is designed to develop basic competencies essential to the study of biblical and theological literature, provide foundational knowledge concerning ministry leadership, while allowing students the opportunity to customize a significant portion of the program. The program consists of 63 semester hours, which includes a 32-hour Bible and theology core, a 16-hour ministry leadership emphasis and 15 hours of general electives. Applicants for the Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies should possess a minimum 2.5 cumulative undergraduate grade point average from an accredited baccalaureate institution. Applicants not meeting these standards may be considered for probationary admission. For the student planning to enroll full-time, the table below provides a detailed and specific curricular path. Those intending to enroll part-time will find valuable insights from this information for planning your ideal course sequencing.

| FALL SEMESTER |                                   |           | J-TERM/SPRING SEMESTER |                                       |           | SUMMER SEMESTER |                    |           |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------|
| NO.           | COURSE                            | CR.       | NO.                    | COURSE                                | CR.       | NO.             | COURSE             | CR.       |
| <b>YEAR 1</b> |                                   |           |                        |                                       |           |                 |                    |           |
| BBL-501       | Biblical Hermeneutics             | 3         | BBL-503                | New Testament Biblical Theology       | 3         |                 | Bible Elective     | 3         |
| BBL-502       | Old Testament Biblical Theology   | 3         | MIN-500                | Christian Spiritual Formation         | 3         |                 | General Elective   | 3         |
| THE-501       | Program Introduction Seminar      | 2         | THE-640                | Systematic Theology II                | 3         |                 |                    |           |
| THE-540       | Systematic Theology I             | 3         | MIN-545                | Teaching & Learning                   | 3         |                 |                    |           |
|               | General Elective                  | 3         |                        | General Elective                      | 3         |                 |                    |           |
|               |                                   | <b>14</b> |                        |                                       | <b>15</b> |                 |                    | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>YEAR 2</b> |                                   |           |                        |                                       |           |                 |                    |           |
|               | Bible Elective                    | 3         |                        | Historical Theology I, II, III, or IV | 3         |                 |                    |           |
| THE-641       | Systematic Theology II            | 3         | MIN-510                | Organizational Leadership             | 3         |                 |                    |           |
| MIN-543       | Educational Mission of the Church | 3         | MIN-711                | Program Completion Seminar            | 1         |                 |                    |           |
| MIN-560       | Global Impact                     | 3         |                        | Theology Elective                     | 3         |                 |                    |           |
|               | General Elective                  | 3         |                        | General Elective                      | 3         |                 |                    |           |
|               |                                   | <b>15</b> |                        |                                       | <b>13</b> |                 | <b>TOTAL HOURS</b> | <b>63</b> |

## **Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies Degree Requirements**

The Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies degree is conferred when the following conditions are met:

1. Completion of 63 semester hours with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average. The program includes a 48-hour core consisting of 15 hours of Bible, 17 hours of theology and a 16-hour ministry leadership emphasis. An additional 15 hours are given to elective credits.
2. A minimum of 32 semester hours must be achieved at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary by transfer students.
3. Completed standing credit is limited to 1/6 of the degree program requirements (10 hours).
4. Credits achieved by on-line and/or by distance education are limited to a maximum of five courses within the degree program.
5. Evidence of personal commitment to Jesus Christ and a life pattern of moral character and conduct.
6. Completion of all assessments.
7. Participation in entrance, mid-point and exit assessments.
8. Submission of all student learning portfolio requirements.
9. The meeting of all financial obligations.
10. Five years from matriculation are permitted to complete all degree requirements.
11. Participation in commencement.

## **Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies Student Learning Outcomes**

The Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies curriculum is designed to enable the student to:

### **Core Curriculum**

1. Conduct basic biblical interpretation and application with reference to the English Bible texts.
2. State a basic understanding of the primary elements of Christian theology.
3. Demonstrate knowledge, values and practices essential to personal spiritual formation.
4. Exhibit knowledge, values and skills essential to effective ministerial and public leadership.
5. Demonstrate basic competency in cultural intelligence and cultural exegesis.

# MASTER OF THEOLOGY

The Master of Theology is offered on a limited basis to students who have demonstrated exceptional ability in biblical and theological scholarship at the Master of Divinity and Master of Arts level. The development of mastery and competency in the major field is the primary purpose of this program. The program consists of 30 semester hours in one of four areas of concentration: Old Testament, New Testament, Historical Theology and Systematic Theology. The curriculum is structured in a manner that engages the student in independent research under the supervision of a major professor. Applicants for the Master of Theology should possess a minimum 3.0 grade point average in the Master of Divinity or Master of Arts degree.

## Master of Theology (Old Testament)

| FALL SEMESTER |                        |          | J-TERM/SPRING SEMESTER |                   |          | SUMMER SEMESTER |                            |                       |
|---------------|------------------------|----------|------------------------|-------------------|----------|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| NO.           | COURSE                 | CR.      | NO.                    | COURSE            | CR.      | NO.             | COURSE                     | CR.                   |
| <b>YEAR 1</b> |                        |          |                        |                   |          |                 |                            |                       |
| BBL-840       | Language               | 4        | BBL-844                | Biblical Theology | 4        | BBL-846         | Old Testament Introduction | 4                     |
| BBL-841       | History                | 4        |                        |                   |          |                 |                            |                       |
|               |                        | <b>8</b> |                        |                   | <b>4</b> |                 |                            | <b>4</b>              |
| <b>YEAR 2</b> |                        |          |                        |                   |          |                 |                            |                       |
| BBL-848       | Old Testament Exegesis | 4        | BBL-890                | Th. M. Thesis     | 6        |                 |                            |                       |
| BBL-880       | Enrichment             | 4        |                        |                   |          |                 |                            |                       |
|               |                        | <b>8</b> |                        |                   | <b>6</b> |                 |                            | <b>TOTAL HOURS 30</b> |

## Master of Theology (New Testament)

| FALL SEMESTER |                                                      |          | J-TERM/SPRING SEMESTER |                                  |          | SUMMER SEMESTER |                                  |                       |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------|------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|-----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| NO.           | COURSE                                               | CR.      | NO.                    | COURSE                           | CR.      | NO.             | COURSE                           | CR.                   |
| <b>YEAR 1</b> |                                                      |          |                        |                                  |          |                 |                                  |                       |
| BBL-870       | Grammar and Translation                              | 4        | BBL-874                | Exegesis of the Gospels and Acts | 4        | BBL-876         | Exegesis of the Pauline Epistles | 4                     |
| BBL-872       | New Testament Introduction and Historical Background | 4        |                        |                                  |          |                 |                                  |                       |
|               |                                                      | <b>8</b> |                        |                                  | <b>4</b> |                 |                                  | <b>4</b>              |
| <b>YEAR 2</b> |                                                      |          |                        |                                  |          |                 |                                  |                       |
| BBL-877       | Exegesis of the General Epistles and Revelation      | 4        | BBL-890                | Th. M. Thesis                    | 6        |                 |                                  |                       |
| BBL-880       | Enrichment                                           | 4        |                        |                                  |          |                 |                                  |                       |
|               |                                                      | <b>8</b> |                        |                                  | <b>6</b> |                 |                                  | <b>TOTAL HOURS 30</b> |



## Master of Theology (Historical Theology)

| FALL SEMESTER |                                       |          | J-TERM/SPRING SEMESTER |                     |          | SUMMER SEMESTER    |                        |           |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|----------|------------------------|---------------------|----------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------|
| NO.           | COURSE                                | CR.      | NO.                    | COURSE              | CR.      | NO.                | COURSE                 | CR.       |
| <b>YEAR 1</b> |                                       |          |                        |                     |          |                    |                        |           |
| BBL-810       | Philosophy and Methodology of History | 4        | BBL-812                | The Medieval Church | 4        | BBL-813            | The Reformation Church | 4         |
| BBL-811       | The Early Church                      | 4        |                        |                     |          |                    |                        |           |
|               |                                       | <b>8</b> |                        |                     | <b>4</b> |                    |                        | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>YEAR 2</b> |                                       |          |                        |                     |          |                    |                        |           |
| BBL-814       | The Modern Church                     | 4        | BBL-890                | Th. M. Thesis       | 6        |                    |                        |           |
| BBL-880       | Enrichment                            | 4        |                        |                     |          |                    |                        |           |
|               |                                       | <b>8</b> |                        |                     | <b>6</b> | <b>TOTAL HOURS</b> |                        | <b>30</b> |

## Master of Theology (Systematic Theology)

| FALL SEMESTER |                                 |          | J-TERM/SPRING SEMESTER |                   |          | SUMMER SEMESTER    |                                        |           |
|---------------|---------------------------------|----------|------------------------|-------------------|----------|--------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------|
| NO.           | COURSE                          | CR.      | NO.                    | COURSE            | CR.      | NO.                | COURSE                                 | CR.       |
| <b>YEAR 1</b> |                                 |          |                        |                   |          |                    |                                        |           |
| BBL-840       | Theological Prolegomena         | 4        | BBL-843                | Theological Locus | 4        | BBL-844            | Special Studies in Systematic Theology | 4         |
| BBL-841       | Theological Systems: Historical | 4        |                        |                   |          |                    |                                        |           |
|               |                                 | <b>8</b> |                        |                   | <b>4</b> |                    |                                        | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>YEAR 2</b> |                                 |          |                        |                   |          |                    |                                        |           |
| BBL-845       | Theological Systems: Personal   | 4        | BBL-890                | Th. M. Thesis     | 6        |                    |                                        |           |
| BBL-880       | Enrichment                      | 4        |                        |                   |          |                    |                                        |           |
|               |                                 | <b>8</b> |                        |                   | <b>6</b> | <b>TOTAL HOURS</b> |                                        | <b>30</b> |

## Admission Requirements and Process

1. Candidates for the program should possess an accredited baccalaureate degree and Master of Divinity or Master of Arts in the relevant theological discipline, and achieve a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average in graduate level study.
2. Applicants are required to submit a graded writing sample from the M.Div. or M.A. equivalent degree program which demonstrates knowledge of research and scholarly writing. Scores from the General Graduate Record Exam (GRE) may also be requested in addition to or in place of the graded writing sample as determined by the supervising professor.
3. Transfer credits are not generally permitted in this degree program.
4. Candidates for the Old Testament or New Testament concentration should demonstrate advanced competency in the related original language (Hebrew or Greek).
5. Candidates should possess well developed critical thinking and communication skills, both essential to theological research and writing.
6. Candidates should show promise for exceptional productivity in Kingdom ministry from previous academic work and personal spiritual qualifications.
7. Applicants are required to provide two letters of recommendation from former teachers – one from a former teacher in the anticipated major field.
8. Applicants must submit to the Graduate Admission Office a formal letter to the faculty indicating reasons for pursuing an advanced graduate theological degree. The letter should also include the selection of a major field for the program and life objectives.
9. Admission to the Master of Theology is granted by the vote of the faculty.

## Program Organization and Evaluation

1. Major Field (20 hours) – A minimum of 20 semester hours will be achieved through major field units.
2. Enrichment (4 hours) – With the approval of the major professor, a four credit course must be taken in another cognate area with another professor.
3. Professional Practicum (no credit) – Each student will be involved in teaching and/or engaged in related professional activities under the supervision of the major professor and approval of the Dean.
4. Thesis (6 hours) – The thesis is required in the major field. A faculty committee will be appointed by the Dean to review and evaluate the thesis.

The thesis topic must be submitted to the major professor by the end of the second week of September for approval. The first draft of the thesis is due at the end of the second week of January. The final draft is to be submitted to the major professor at the end of the first week of March. An oral defense of the thesis is required and will be conducted by the faculty committee.

5. A 3.0 grade point average must be achieved in all Master of Theology course work. Any work below 3.0 grade point average must be repeated according to the seminary retake policy.

## Costs and Time Limits

1. See the financial information section of this catalog for the current Master of Theology tuition costs.
2. The degree, including the thesis, is to be completed within three academic years.
3. Failure to complete the program within the three academic year time limit (three years/ two summers) will require a formal evaluative meeting with the major professor and Dean. Program extension is granted only on the basis of faculty vote.

## Master of Theology: Degree Requirements

1. Completion of 30 semester hours with a minimum 3.0 grade point average for each course and a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average for the program.
2. Completion of 20 semester hours in the major field of study, a 4 semester hour enrichment, and the six semester hour thesis.
3. The completion of the professional practicum, fulfilled under the supervision of the program advisor.
4. Evidence of personal commitment to Jesus Christ and a life pattern of moral character and conduct.
5. Successful completion and defense of Master of Theology Thesis.
6. Completion of thesis submission to Miller Library.
7. The meeting of all financial obligations.
8. Three years from matriculation are permitted to complete all degree requirements.
9. Participation in commencement.

## Master of Theology Student Learning Outcomes

The Master of Theology curriculum is designed to enable the student to:

### *Old Testament Major*

1. Read with facility the prose and poetry of the Hebrew Bible with the use of lexical tools.
2. Demonstrate advanced hermeneutical and exegetical skills that apply to Old Testament literature.
3. Identify and describe the academic study of the Old Testament.
4. Demonstrate competency to read the Old Testament against its ancient Near Eastern background.
5. Research and write an advanced level master's thesis in Old Testament.

### *New Testament Major*

1. Read with facility the Greek New Testament with the use of lexical tools.
2. Demonstrate advanced hermeneutical and exegetical skills.
3. Identify and describe the categories that comprise the academic study of the New Testament.
4. Research and write an advanced level master's thesis in New Testament.

### *Historical Theology Major*

1. Describe the main eras of church history and their contributions to the development of theology.
2. State the ideas of key theologians within the history of the church.
3. Demonstrate critical reflection on the theological development of Western Christianity.
4. Research and write an advanced level master's thesis in historical theology.

### *Systematic Theology Major*

1. Demonstrate competence in the methods of theology as applied to great theologians and major doctrines.
2. Construct one's own integrated theological system of belief.
3. Critically analyze various theological problems and successfully argue for a position.
4. Research and write an advanced level master's thesis in systematic theology.

# MASTER OF ARTS IN MINISTRY LEADERSHIP (CORNERSTONE UNIVERSITY)

The Master of Arts in Ministry Leadership (MAML) is a degree for those in various ministry leadership positions and service roles who desire advanced biblical, theological and ministry education to promote personal, spiritual and professional growth. The program consists of 36 semester hours (12 courses). The Master of Arts in Ministry Leadership is designed as a distance education program, which allows 10 of the 12 courses to be completed on-line with the remaining 2 courses required in residence through intensive course offerings. The program is also cohort based, which means that affinity groups of 15-20 students journey through the program together. Christian worldview and biblically based servant-leadership formation are pillars of the curriculum, and these pillars are incorporated throughout the program of study. In certain circumstances, individual students may gain admittance to the program independent of a cohort, but must do so by vote of the GRTS Admissions committee. Individuals seeking admission to this program independent of a MAML cohort are encouraged to work closely with the GRTS admissions director. The MAML degree is not intended as a basis for doctoral study. Applicants for the MAML degree must hold a bachelor's degree with a minimum 2.50 cumulative grade point average from an accredited undergraduate institution. The MAML degree is conferred through Cornerstone University and is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. All courses are completed through Grand Rapids Theological Seminary.

## Four-year course plan

| FALL SEMESTER         |                                 |     | J-TERM/SPRING SEMESTER        |                                   |     | SUMMER SEMESTER                   |                        |     |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-----|
| NO.                   | COURSE                          | CR. | NO.                           | COURSE                            | CR. | NO.                               | COURSE                 | CR. |
| <b>YEAR 1</b>         |                                 |     |                               |                                   |     |                                   |                        |     |
| MIN-500               | Christian Spiritual Formation   | 3   | BBL-501                       | Biblical Hermeneutics             | 3   | THE-540                           | Systematic Theology I  | 3   |
| <b>FALL SEMESTER</b>  |                                 |     | <b>J-TERM/SPRING SEMESTER</b> |                                   |     | <b>SUMMER SEMESTER</b>            |                        |     |
| NO.                   | COURSE                          | CR. | NO.                           | COURSE                            | CR. | NO.                               | COURSE                 | CR. |
| <b>YEAR 2</b>         |                                 |     |                               |                                   |     |                                   |                        |     |
| General Elective      |                                 | 3   | MIN-560                       | Global Impact                     | 3   | THE-640                           | Systematic Theology II | 3   |
| <b>FALL SEMESTER</b>  |                                 |     | <b>J-TERM/SPRING SEMESTER</b> |                                   |     | <b>SUMMER SEMESTER</b>            |                        |     |
| NO.                   | COURSE                          | CR. | NO.                           | COURSE                            | CR. | NO.                               | COURSE                 | CR. |
| <b>YEAR 3</b>         |                                 |     |                               |                                   |     |                                   |                        |     |
| One of the following: |                                 |     | Theology Elective             |                                   |     | MIN-510 Organizational Leadership |                        |     |
| BBL-502               | Old Testament Biblical Theology | 3   |                               |                                   | 3   |                                   |                        | 3   |
| BBL-503               | New Testament Biblical Theology | 3   |                               |                                   |     |                                   |                        |     |
| <b>FALL SEMESTER</b>  |                                 |     | <b>J-TERM/SPRING SEMESTER</b> |                                   |     | <b>SUMMER SEMESTER</b>            |                        |     |
| NO.                   | COURSE                          | CR. | NO.                           | COURSE                            | CR. | NO.                               | COURSE                 | CR. |
| <b>YEAR 4</b>         |                                 |     |                               |                                   |     |                                   |                        |     |
| General Elective      |                                 | 3   | MIN-543                       | Educational Mission of the Church | 3   | Bible Elective                    |                        | 3   |
|                       |                                 |     |                               |                                   |     | <b>TOTAL HOURS</b>                | <b>36</b>              |     |

## Two-year course plan

| FALL SEMESTER         |                                 |     | J-TERM/SPRING SEMESTER        |                                   |     | SUMMER SEMESTER        |                        |     |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----|------------------------|------------------------|-----|
| NO.                   | COURSE                          | CR. | NO.                           | COURSE                            | CR. | NO.                    | COURSE                 | CR. |
| <b>YEAR 1</b>         |                                 |     |                               |                                   |     |                        |                        |     |
| MIN-500               | Christian Spiritual Formation   | 3   | Theology Elective             |                                   | 3   | THE-540                | Systematic Theology I  | 3   |
| One of the following: |                                 |     | BBL-501                       | Biblical Hermeneutics             | 3   | THE-640                | Systematic Theology II | 3   |
| BBL-502               | Old Testament Biblical Theology | 3   |                               |                                   |     |                        |                        |     |
| BIB-503               | New Testament Biblical Theology | 3   |                               |                                   |     |                        |                        |     |
| <b>YEAR 2</b>         |                                 |     |                               |                                   |     |                        |                        |     |
| <b>FALL SEMESTER</b>  |                                 |     | <b>J-TERM/SPRING SEMESTER</b> |                                   |     | <b>SUMMER SEMESTER</b> |                        |     |
| NO.                   | COURSE                          | CR. | NO.                           | COURSE                            | CR. | NO.                    | COURSE                 | CR. |
| <b>YEAR 2</b>         |                                 |     |                               |                                   |     |                        |                        |     |
| General Elective      |                                 | 3   | MIN-560                       | Global Impact                     | 3   | General Elective       |                        | 3   |
| MIN-510               | Organizational Leadership       | 3   | MIN-543                       | Educational Mission of the Church | 3   | Bible Elective         |                        | 3   |
|                       |                                 |     |                               |                                   |     | <b>TOTAL HOURS 36</b>  |                        |     |

## Master of Arts in Ministry Leadership Degree Requirements

The Master of Arts in Ministry Leadership degree is conferred through Cornerstone University when the following conditions are met:

1. Completion of 36 semester hours with a minimum 2.50 cumulative grade point average. Included are a nine-hour Bible core, nine-hour theology core, and a 6-hour ministry core. The remaining 12 semester hours can be completed according to the program checklist (p. 112), or used to form a customized ministry specialization (e.g., youth ministry, intercultural ministry, spiritual formation, etc.) in keeping with the interests of the particular MAML cohort.
2. A minimum of 24 semester hours must be achieved at Cornerstone University (through the course offerings of Grand Rapids Theological Seminary).
3. Advanced standing credit is limited to 1/6th of the degree program, and the combination of advanced standing credit and transfer credit is limited to a total of 12 semester hours.
4. Credits achieved by distance education are limited to a maximum of 30 semester hours.
5. 6 semester hours (two courses) must be completed in residence. These 6 credits can be completed through the residential offerings of Grand Rapids Theological Seminary (intensive or traditional offerings), or at a location suitable for the particular MAML cohort.

6. Evidence of a personal commitment to Jesus Christ and a life-pattern of moral character and conduct.
7. Completion of all required assessments and submission of those assessments within the student learning e-portfolio.
8. Participation in entrance, mid-point and exit assessments.
9. Six years from matriculation are permitted to complete all degree requirements.
10. The meeting of all financial obligations.
11. Participation in commencement.

## Master of Arts in Ministry Leadership Learning Outcomes

The Master of Arts in Ministry Leadership curriculum is designed to enable students to:

1. Conduct basic biblical interpretation and application with reference to the English Bible texts.
2. State a basic understanding of the primary elements of Christian theology.
3. Demonstrate knowledge, values and practices essential to personal spiritual formation.
4. Exhibit knowledge, values and skills essential to effective ministerial and public leadership.
5. Demonstrate basic competency in cultural intelligence and cultural exegesis.

# ACADEMIC POLICIES

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## Semesters and Hours

The academic year is divided into two semesters. The typical full-time course load is 12-14 hours per semester. A semester hour represents one class period of 50 minutes per week for one semester. A student wishing to receive the maximum financial aid package and/or full veteran's benefits must carry a minimum of 12 hours per semester.

## Calendar

The academic year corresponds with the following schedule:

**Fall Semester** – begins during the fourth week of August.

**J-Term** – begins within the first two weeks of January.

**Spring Semester** – begins during the third or fourth week of January.

**Summer Semester** – May, June, July and August.

See Academic Calendar on page 15 for complete 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 academic schedules.

## Grades and Honor Points

The student's scholastic standing is indicated both by grades and honor points. The student earns honor points in accordance with his/her grades as follows:

### Grade Interpretation

|    |       |    |       |     |                    |
|----|-------|----|-------|-----|--------------------|
| A  | - 4.0 | C  | - 2.0 | AU  | - Audit            |
| A- | - 3.7 | C- | - 1.7 | CR  | - Credit           |
| B+ | - 3.3 | D+ | - 1.3 | NC  | - No Credit        |
| B  | - 3.0 | D  | - 1.0 | I   | - Incomplete       |
| B- | - 2.7 | D- | - 0.7 | W   | - Withdrew         |
| C+ | - 2.3 | F  | - 0.0 | W/P | - Withdrew Passing |
|    |       |    |       | W/E | - Withdrew Failing |

## Classification of Students

Students are officially classified in accordance with the semester hours of credit they have earned as follows:

### M.A.

Juniors: 1-32 semester hours

Seniors: 33 or more semester hours

### M.Div.

Juniors: 1-32 semester hours

Middlers: 33-62 semester hours

Seniors: 63 or more semester hours

## Mid-Point Assessment

Students enrolled in the Master of Divinity and Master of Arts degree programs must participate in the mid-point assessment process upon completing 50 percent of the particular degree program requirements. The mid-point assessment process is initiated by the Academic Office and engages the student along with the students' academic advisor, academic dean, dean of student services, ministry mentor, and the executive director of the Ministry Residency in a review of the student's academic performance, student learning e-portfolio and overall progress in readiness for ministry. Specifically, the team considers the student's progress in disciplinary knowledge and skill (academic performance), faith commitment and personal maturity (Christian character), and progress made in attaining the student learning outcomes associated with the particular degree (learning, development, and vocational readiness where applicable). At the conclusion of the review process, one of three judgments is rendered by the review team and presented to the student in written form within the context of a mid-point interview. The range of judgments includes the following: 1) Affirm progress in readiness for ministry, 2) Affirm progress in readiness for ministry with reservations, 3) Do not affirm readiness for ministry. Consult the GRTS Student Handbook for a more detailed description of the policies, process, judgments and the implications of the judgments.

## Graduation

All senior level students are required to file an Application to Graduate by Sept. 1 for December graduation and Feb. 1 for May graduation. Eligibility for graduation necessitates the completion of all degree specific requirements as outlined in the GRTS Academic Catalog. In fulfillment of degree program requirements, graduates are expected to participate in

the commencement exercise, which occurs each year on the first weekend in May. Approval to participate in commencement exercises prior to the completion of all degree requirements is rare, and requires the approval of the academic dean based on a written request. Such approvals will be limited to six credits or less of outstanding work, substantial rationale for early participation, a plan to complete the work within the next enrollment cycle, and cannot include an outstanding practicum, internship, ministry residency or thesis. Appeals to waive participation in the commencement exercise must be submitted to the Academic Dean by March 1. Three official graduation dates occur each year: December, May and August.

## Scholastic Honors

Students who attain a grade point average of 3.5 or more who do not carry less than nine semester hours are recognized each semester through a published Dean's list. Three graduation honors are recognized at commencement. Those graduating cum laude must achieve a cumulative grade point average of not less than 3.5; magna cum laude, 3.7; and summa cum laude, 3.85. To be eligible for graduation honors, the student must complete a minimum of 31 hours in the Master of Arts degrees, or 36 hours in the Master of Arts in Counseling, or 47 hours in the Master of Divinity degree at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary. Graduation honors are not available in the Master of Theology or Master of Arts in Ministry Leadership degree.

For purposes of awarding honor cords and recognition at commencement, the determination of those eligible for honors will be made on the basis of the cumulative grade point average from the fall semester. The final transcript and diploma will record graduation honors on the basis of the student's entire academic program.

## Retake Policy

Students are permitted to retake a course in which an unsatisfactory grade was achieved during a previous period of enrollment. In such situations, registration for the course and payment of the related tuition and fees at the current tuition rates are required. The grade achieved by the retake course replaces the initial grade in relation to the grade point average calculation, though the initial grade will remain on the permanent transcript record. Students may only receive federal financial aid when retaking a course if it is the first time they have retaken the course and if the original grade in the course does not meet the minimum grade requirement for a student's program.

## Academic Integrity

Cornerstone University and Grand Rapids Theological Seminary are committed to a high standard of

academic honesty and integrity among its students. Academic integrity is absolutely necessary in the search for and advancement of truth. Dishonesty in any form (i.e., cheating on examinations or quizzes, plagiarism on papers, reports or thesis, and all other forms of compromise in academic integrity) is not acceptable. Penalties for academic dishonesty will be administered according to the following:

**First offense** – The penalty for first offense academic integrity violation includes failure in the course assignment or failure in the course; enrollment limitation; and academic probation for one academic year. Penalties are imposed by the individual faculty member and the academic dean. Continuing enrollment following such violation requires a letter acknowledging that one understands what constitutes an academic integrity violation, taking full responsibility for the present offense and pledging to avoid such conduct in the future. A meeting with the course professor and academic dean is also required.

**Second offense** – The penalty for second offense academic integrity violation includes failure in the course and suspension from program for one academic year. Penalties for second offense violations are imposed by the individual faculty member and academic dean. Readmission following a second offense violation requires a letter acknowledging that one understands what constitutes an academic integrity violation, taking full responsibility for the present offense and pledging to avoid such conduct in the future. Readmission will also require a meeting with the GRTS admissions committee and the meeting of all conditions stipulated in the letter of suspension. No coursework, internships or field education completed at other institutions during the period of suspension may be transferred to GRTS for credit or used to fulfill GRTS degree program requirements.

**Third offense** – The penalty for third offense academic integrity violation includes failure in the course and permanent suspension from program. Penalties for third offense violations are imposed by the individual faculty member and academic dean.

Students seeking to appeal academic integrity disciplinary decisions should consult and employ the policies and processes outlined in the GRTS Academic Catalog under the heading "Student Appeal Process."

## Inclusive Language

As a commitment to honor God's image in all people, rather than for political correctness, GRTS is committed to being a community that uses inclusive language with reference to all people regardless of gender, nationality, culture, social class or religion. With these commitments in mind, the seminary's inclusive language policy is as follows:

Persons in the community are expected to use inclusive language with reference to human beings in the conduct of courses, fulfillment of course assignments and patterns of communication in all facets of the work of the seminary. This means avoiding language that is explicitly or implicitly racist or sexist and avoiding “generic” uses of masculine terms or pronouns.

A few examples are:

- Use “humanity”, “persons” or “people” instead of “man” or “mankind.”
- When giving examples, vary the race and sex of the persons under discussion and avoid stereotypical descriptions.
- Avoid dogmatic generalizations about an entire culture, race, social class, denomination or religious group.

No complete list is possible or necessary in the seminary’s inclusive language policy but all faculty, staff and students agree to exercise care and attentiveness to this priority.

## Academic Tutoring

Academic tutoring is available on a limited basis to students in need of academic assistance. Students struggling with the academic demands of the courses at GRTS should first communicate with their professors and academic advisor. Subsequently, they are encouraged to make an appointment with the academic dean, since all GRTS funded tutoring is coordinated through and approved by the academic dean. Students on probationary status due to academic performance will be assigned an academic tutor and encouraged to take full advantage of this valuable resource. Typically, tutors will be area professionals with research and writing skills and/or upper level GRTS students who have excelled in coursework, possess the appropriate disciplinary expertise, and demonstrate the relational gifts essential to the task of tutoring.

## Scholastic Probation, Suspension and Dismissal

Any student who does not achieve the minimum required cumulative grade point average of 2.50 after completion of nine credits will be placed on academic probation. Students placed on academic probation will be notified in writing immediately following the determination, usually at the close of an academic semester. Students on academic probation will not be allowed to enroll in more than six credits per semester; will not be allowed to enroll in distance education or independent study courses, and may be required to take remedial courses or work with an academic tutor. Probation is not designed to punish students,

but rather to serve as an indication to students that they are not progressing at a satisfactory rate towards graduation.

Students who, after one semester of academic probation, fail to achieve the minimum required cumulative grade point average of 2.50 will be academically suspended. Students placed on suspension will be notified of such action in writing immediately following the determination. Academic suspension means that the student will not be permitted to enroll in courses on a credit or audit basis throughout the duration of the suspension. Students on suspension may be considered for readmission after one semester. Readmission of suspended students will require the approval of the admissions committee. In addition, any student suspended for a second time will be dismissed from Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, with no option for future enrollment. Student appeals concerning scholastic probation, suspension and dismissal judgments should be put in writing to the attention of the GRTS academic appeals committee within 10 days of the date of notification of the probation, suspension or dismissal. Judgments of the academic appeals committee are final.

## Student Appeal Process: Academic

On occasion, existing policy and/or faculty and administrative decisions can conflict with the academic interests of individuals. When such a situation occurs, the student should exhaust all options to resolve the academic conflict at the staff, administrative or faculty level. However, students wishing to appeal beyond the initial level are encouraged to write a letter of appeal. The letter should identify and explain the nature of the conflict, request a review of the judgment and/or action and provide a rationale for the appeal. The letter of appeal should be sent to the Academic Dean of Grand Rapids Theological Seminary. For cases related to academic probation and suspension, the letter of appeal must be submitted to the academic dean within five business days of written notification of the probation or suspension status. Personal appointments with the academic dean on such matters may be scheduled only after a formal letter of appeal has been submitted. Upon receiving the appeal, the academic dean will engage in an investigation of the grievance and seek to foster an acceptable resolution. If an acceptable resolution to the conflict/grievance is not possible, the academic dean will coordinate a meeting of the faculty academic appeals committee. The committee will review the grievance and the facts of the case and render a judgment. The judgment will be rendered within 10 business days of receipt of the grievance, the response to the appeal will be in writing and all judgments of the faculty academic appeals committee are final.



## Learning Disabilities Accommodation

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary and Cornerstone University will make reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities, in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The purpose of accommodation is to provide equal access to educational opportunities to students affected by disabilities, and the university does not intend that the standards be altered, nor that the essential elements of programs or courses be changed.

Students having documented disabilities may apply for accommodations through Student Disability Services (SDS), which is part of the Cornerstone University Learning Center located in Miller Hall on the main campus. Disability accommodations for students from the traditional Cornerstone University undergraduate program, Professional and Graduate Studies programs, and Grand Rapids Theological Seminary are addressed centrally in SDS. Accommodations are granted on the basis of determined need and appropriate documentation of disabilities. Students must complete an application and submit appropriate documentation, which will be reviewed by the Accommodations Officer and the Accommodations Review Committee. Upon acceptance, the student will meet with the director of Learning Operations to develop an Individualized Student Accommodation Plan (ISAP) based on the ARC recommendations. Students will be given a green verification letter to give to their professors and students should schedule a meeting with each professor at the beginning of each semester to discuss their needs. In the event that students have questions regarding whether they are eligible for accommodations, how they might provide appropriate documentation of disabilities, or how they might handle a disagreement with a professor over questions of accommodation, the director of Learning Operations should be contacted immediately at 222-1596 or through e-mail at [learningcenter@cornerstone.edu](mailto:learningcenter@cornerstone.edu). If a disagreement arises surrounding eligibility for services, or the manner in which a specific accommodation is being implemented, the student has a right to an informal and formal grievance procedure. A copy of the Grievance Procedures is available at the Learning Center in Miller Hall, or online at [www.cornerstone.edu](http://www.cornerstone.edu).

Please note that the process for determining eligibility for accommodations can take 5-6 weeks. Students should complete an application and submit appropriate documentation well in advance of the semester in which accommodations are required to begin. To be deemed appropriate documentation, testing and assessment of disability must have been completed no more than 3 years prior to the application for accommodations at Cornerstone University.

## Student Grievance Procedure: Standards of Accreditation

As a member in good standing with The Association of Theological Schools (ATS), Grand Rapids Theological Seminary affirms the value of accrediting standards. These standards foster attention to good practices within graduate theological education, providing a structure and guide for institutional integrity, accountability, self-assessment and improvement. Grand Rapids Theological Seminary is committed to honoring these standards in the process and product of its endeavors in theological education. If a student identifies a violation of the accrediting standards of The Association of Theological Schools, it is encouraged to bring this matter to the attention of the GRTS Academic Dean. If compliance with the accrediting standard is not achieved in a reasonable and credible manner, the student can bring this grievance to the attention of the accrediting agency. Specifically, the grievance should be made in writing and a copy should be sent to the academic dean. The grievance should be mailed to the following address: The Association of Theological Schools, 10 Summit Park Drive, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15275-1103. ATS staffers can also be reached by calling 412.788.6505.

## Transfer of Credit

Applicants who are transferring from other accredited graduate schools or seminaries are required to have official academic transcripts sent directly to the director of graduate admissions from all schools previously attended. This is a condition for admission.

Transfer credit evaluations are conducted during the admission process, although formal transfer of credit is not posted to the students academic record until after the admission process is complete. Students will be notified in writing concerning the results of a transfer credit evaluation. Transcripts from foreign institutions will be evaluated by an outside agency. The student will be responsible for following the procedure required by that agency.

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary will accept a maximum of 50 percent of the selected degree program requirements through transfer credit, or through a combination of transfer credit and advanced standing, completed within the 10 years prior to matriculation at GRTS from the following types of schools:

1. All regionally accredited institutions.
2. All Association of Theological Schools (ATS) institutions.
3. All Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE) institutions.
4. Non-accredited institutions, if those institutions supply to the director of graduate admissions three letters of acceptance from regional, ATS or ABHE accredited institutions.
5. Those non-accredited institutions due to the nature of their relationship with Cornerstone University.

Students planning to take courses at other institutions for transfer into their degree program at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary should contact the assistant registrar for Grand Rapids Theological Seminary to verify the acceptance of these courses. Transfer credit will not be given for remedial or non-graduate level work or for any course in which a grade lower than a C was received. Grade point average does not transfer with the transfer credits.

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary does not guarantee the State of Michigan, or any other authority, will recognize transfer courses from other institutions for purposes of state licensure in counseling.

## Advanced Standing

Advanced standing credit is available to new students for certain undergraduate courses completed within the previous ten years at regionally accredited institutions, institutions accredited by the Association for Biblical Higher Education, and other institutions approved by Cornerstone University. In keeping with accrediting standards (The Association of Theological Schools), GRTS limits advanced standing credits to 1/6th of the graduate degree program. Consideration for advanced standing credit is limited to 300/400 level undergraduate courses in which a grade of "B" (3.0) or better was achieved in an equivalent course. Evaluative judgment for advanced standing is made on the basis of examination in the content area, review of student work, review of course description and syllabi, or a combination of the above. New students have one calendar year from their original matriculation date at GRTS to apply for advanced standing credit. Credits granted by advanced standing will appear on the student's academic transcript and contribute to program completion, but will not be included in the student's cumulative grade point average calculation.

At GRTS, advanced standing is assessed and administered by three means. First, advanced standing is assessed and administered on the basis of examination. The GRTS faculty has identified a select grouping of courses for which advanced standing by examination is permitted. Advanced standing exams will be offered at the beginning of each semester. Faculty member approval is required to sit for an advanced standing exam. New students are encouraged to work with an admissions representative to coordinate this process. A non-refundable \$50.00 fee, payable to GRTS prior to taking the advanced standing exam, is charged for each exam administered. All advanced standing exams will be graded on a pass/fail basis. Students are limited to one attempt on any given exam.

Second, advanced standing is assessed and administered on the basis of formal articulation agreement. By formal agreement, GRTS partners with select undergraduate institutions to grant

advanced standing credit for specific courses without the requirement of an examination. In these cases, evaluative judgment for advanced standing is made on the basis of a review of student work and performance in the undergraduate course(s) and routine monitoring of the undergraduate course syllabi by GRTS faculty members. For a listing of partner institutions and eligible courses, new students should contact a GRTS admissions counselor or the CU Registrar's Office.

Third, advanced standing is assessed and administered on the basis of syllabi and transcript review for students with excessive credits on the undergraduate level (i.e., credits achieved beyond those required for the completion of the undergraduate bachelor's degree). Generally, this will consist of a thorough review of the undergraduate course description, course syllabus and the student's academic performance in the course. New students should contact a GRTS admissions counselor or the CU Registrar's Office to explore this form of advanced standing credit.

## Second Degrees

Students who have completed a first master's degree at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary or another accredited graduate school or seminary, and are seeking a second master's degree from Grand Rapids Theological Seminary are eligible to utilize a maximum of 50 percent of the credits from the first degree towards the completion of the second degree and must complete at least 50 percent of the requirements for the second degree through new courses.

## Change of Degree Program

If a student wishes to change his or her program (e.g., M.Div. to the M.A. or vice versa) approval must be obtained from the academic dean. This is also true for those wishing to change their concentration. Change of Degree forms are available at the seminary office.

## Attendance

Students are expected to attend all class sessions. For full-block courses, courses meeting one time per week, a maximum of one absence will be allowed without grade implication for work conflicts, sickness, scheduling conflicts and all other reasons. For split-block courses, courses meeting twice per week, two absences will be allowed without grade implication. Exceeding the allowable absences noted above carries grading implications according to the chart below. Students should communicate with the course professor concerning anticipated absences (planned or unplanned) in advance of the session in which the student will be absent. Three tardies will equal one absence. After 15 minutes, it is regarded as an absence. Individual professors may implement an alternative

attendance policy within their courses. When the attendance policy embedded within a given course syllabus differs from the institutional attendance policy, the policy listed within the given syllabus is authoritative.

### ***Full-Block (meet once per week)***

- 1 absence – no grade reduction for course
- 2 absences – 1 letter grade reduction for course
- 3 absences – 2 letter grade reduction for course
- 4 absences – “F” course letter grade

### ***Split-block (meet twice per week)***

- 1-2 absences – no grade reduction for course
- 3-4 absences – 1 letter grade reduction for course
- 5-6 absences – 2 letter grade reduction for course
- 7 absences – “F” course letter grade

## **Incompletes**

A student is expected to complete all work within the semester. If an incomplete is deemed necessary, permission must be obtained from the professor and the academic dean. Students who are granted an incomplete are ineligible for Dean’s List consideration for the semester in which they receive the incomplete. Grade changes from the fall semester must be turned into the Registrar’s Office no later than March 15. Grades from the spring semester must be turned in no later than Aug. 1 and from summer school no later than Nov. 15. Every effort should be made to have incomplete work completed in the shortest time possible following the close of the academic term in which the work is taken. Incompletes will be assigned an “F” grade after the above dates. The time limit for a student to change an “F” to another grade is one calendar year from the receipt of the initial incomplete.

## **Drop/Add**

Courses may be dropped or added without penalty during the first week of classes. After the first week of classes, courses cannot be added and refunds for courses dropped will be calculated using the chart listed under “Withdrawal Refunds.” In regards to course drops, courses will be treated as follows on the student’s official record:

1. Before end of Drop/Add  
No record on transcript
2. Before end of 10<sup>th</sup> week  
W – no effect on grade point average
3. After end of 10<sup>th</sup> week  
W/P or W/E  
W/P – no effect on grade point average  
W/E – treated as “F” for grade point average
4. After end of 14<sup>th</sup> week  
W/E – treated as “F” for grade point average  
(no W/P option)

## **Course Waiver**

In order to preclude repetition of previously mastered material, students may apply to waive such a course and replace it with another course. Approval for course waiver is granted by the professor who teaches the duplicated course and by the academic dean. Waiver forms are available in the seminary office.

## **Audit Policy**

Course audits are permitted under certain conditions and with a set of specific implications. The cost to audit a course is the equivalent of one graduate credit. A course may be changed from audit to credit or credit to audit during the drop/add period only (first week of semester). The extent of participation in the given course by an auditing student should be arranged in advance between the student and the course professor. Auditing language based courses requires professor approval. Auditing students are given secondary priority in accessing courses when course caps are achieved. In some cases, auditing students will be withdrawn from a course to make room for full-pay enrollments.

## **Withdrawal**

A student who wishes to withdraw must complete a withdrawal form, available from the seminary office. To complete the withdrawal process, the student should return the completed withdrawal form to the Registrar’s Office. Failure to do this will result in the student receiving an “F” in the related course or courses. In addition, any student leaving school during the semester without completing the official withdrawal process will be academically suspended.

## **Withdrawal Refunds**

### ***Withdrawal from Individual Courses:***

Students who do not officially withdraw from a course will receive a failing grade for that course. Students withdrawing from individual courses will receive refunds based upon the following schedule:

|                            |                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| One week or less .....     | 100% of tuition |
| Second week .....          | 86% of tuition  |
| Third week .....           | 80% of tuition  |
| Fourth week .....          | 73% of tuition  |
| Fifth week .....           | 66% of tuition  |
| Sixth week .....           | 60% of tuition  |
| Seventh week .....         | 53% of tuition  |
| Eighth week .....          | 46% of tuition  |
| Ninth week .....           | 40% of tuition  |
| More than nine weeks ..... | No refund       |

Appropriate adjustments will be made to financial aid programs following formulas mandated by federal, state and institutional regulations. Students whose enrollment status (i.e., full time, 3/4-time, 1/2-time) would change if classes were dropped should consult with the Student Financial Services Office to determine the extent of these adjustments.

**Withdrawal from the Institution:**

Tuition refunds for students who withdraw from the seminary during the course of the semester, as well as those who are dismissed or suspended, will be computed as follows:

|                            |                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| One week or less .....     | 100% of tuition |
| Second week .....          | 86% of tuition  |
| Third week .....           | 80% of tuition  |
| Fourth week .....          | 73% of tuition  |
| Fifth week .....           | 66% of tuition  |
| Sixth week .....           | 60% of tuition  |
| Seventh week .....         | 53% of tuition  |
| Eighth week .....          | 46% of tuition  |
| Ninth week .....           | 40% of tuition  |
| More than nine weeks ..... | No Refund       |

Students receiving financial aid who withdraw from the institution during the semester may be required to return a portion of the aid to the appropriate programs. A calculation will be made based on the student's withdrawal date to see what portion of the financial aid must be returned. Students may request a copy of the Refund and Repayment Policy from the Student Financial Services Office.

**Federal Title IV Aid**

If a student withdraws before completing 60 percent of the semester or period of enrollment, the institution must determine the percentage of Title IV assistance the student has earned. The percent earned is determined by dividing the total number of calendar days in the semester into the number of calendar days completed as of the withdrawal date. Any unearned amount must be returned to the Title IV program(s).

**Institutional Aid**

Institutional financial aid is reduced by the percent of the tuition and fees originally covered by the institutional aid. The student may retain an amount equal to the percent of the actual tuition and fees charged based on the withdrawal date. The remaining amount must be returned to the institutional programs.

**Graduation Awards**

**THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD**

Given annually to the outstanding graduating seminarian in the M.Div., M.A. (Ministry) and M.A. (Academic) degree programs. Selection is made by the president and seminary faculty, based on the student's total seminary experience.

**ACADEMIC DEAN'S AWARD**

Given to the graduating senior with the highest cumulative grade point average.

**LEON J. WOOD AWARD**

Given in honor of Leon J. Wood to a graduating senior who has demonstrated outstanding ability in Old Testament studies.

**CARL B. HOCH JR. AWARD**

Given in honor of Carl B. Hoch Jr. to a graduate who has demonstrated outstanding ability in Greek and New Testament studies.

**BAKER BOOK HOUSE AWARD**

Given annually to the graduate who is distinguished in biblical or theological study. This award is sponsored by Baker Book House (www.bakerbooks.com) to encourage excellence in biblical and theological study by students preparing for vocational ministry.

**ZONDERVAN PUBLISHING HOUSE GREEK AWARD**

Given annually to the seminarian who demonstrates the greatest achievement in the study of biblical Greek. Receiving this award reflects not only mastery of Greek but student initiative in electing additional Greek courses for advancement in language. This award is sponsored by the academic division of Zondervan Publishing House (www.zondervan.com/academic) to encourage the study of Greek by students preparing for vocational ministry.

**ZONDERVAN PUBLISHING HOUSE HEBREW AWARD**

Given annually to the seminarian who demonstrates the greatest achievement in the study of biblical Hebrew. Receiving this award reflects not only mastery of Hebrew but student initiative in electing additional Hebrew courses for advancement in language. This award is sponsored by the academic division of Zondervan Publishing House (www.zondervan.com/academic) to encourage the study of Hebrew by students preparing for vocational ministry.

**NICKOLAI WIENS PASTORAL AWARD**

Given in honor of Nickolai Wiens to a graduate, selected by the seminary faculty, who shows great prospect for effective pastoral ministry demonstrated by spiritual maturity, ability to work with people and showing passion for the work of the church.

**STRAUSS EXPOSITORY PREACHING AWARD**

Given in memory of Elsie Strauss to the senior seminarian chosen for excellence in expository preaching.

**WILLIAM CLARENCE HAAS AWARD**

Given in honor of William Clarence Haas, founder of Baptist Mid-Missions, to a graduating seminarian who has demonstrated outstanding proficiency and promise for missionary service.

*OWEN JOHN LYDECKER MEMORIAL AWARD*

Given in memory of Owen John Lydecker, to a distinguished graduate, as selected by the seminary faculty. The recipient will demonstrate academic proficiency and show excellent potential for local church ministry.

*EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES AWARD*

Given to a graduating seminarian who has demonstrated outstanding ability in Christian education.

*COUNSELING AWARD*

Given annually to the graduate who has demonstrated outstanding ability in counseling.

# ADMISSION AND REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

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## Admissions Staff



**GRAHAM MCKEAGUE, M. THEOL.**  
*Director of Admissions*  
M. Theol., University of St. Andrews;  
M.A. (program), Grand Rapids  
Theological Seminary  
Contact Information: (616) 222-1559  
Graham\_McKeague@cornerstone.edu



**KIRSTEN WRIGHT, B.S.**  
*Senior Admissions Representative*  
B.S., Univ. of Wisc.-LaCrosse; M.A.  
Counseling (Program)  
Grand Rapids Theological Seminary  
Contact Information: 616.254.1632  
Kirsten\_M\_Wright@cornerstone.edu



**DAVID HARKEY, B.A.**  
*Admissions Representative*  
B.A., Moody Bible Institute; M. Div.  
(Program)  
Grand Rapids Theological Seminary  
Contact Information: 616.222.1442  
David\_W\_Harkey@cornerstone.edu



**ANNETTE VANRYN, B.A.**  
*Data Coordinator*  
B.A., Cornerstone University  
Contact information: 800.697.1133  
Rosemary\_Vanryn@cornerstone.edu

## Campus Visit

Selecting a school for graduate theological education is an important decision. You should consider academic quality, range of degree programs, theological orientation, location, job and housing markets and local church options. A great way to gather information for your decision is to visit the campus. The campus visit is designed to maximize your contact with faculty, administrative staff and current students. Grand Rapids Theological Seminary offers at least one Preview Day each fall and spring semester designed to give you a look at what God is doing at GRTS. If your schedule does not allow you to attend Preview Day, we would be happy to schedule a personal visit for you. Contact the Admissions Office at 800.697.1133 to register for an upcoming Preview Day or for a personal visit.

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary has two guest apartments located on campus. These accommodations are available free of charge to prospective students and their families during scheduled campus visits.

Come and see for yourself why Grand Rapids Theological Seminary is an excellent choice for your graduate theological education. To arrange your campus visit, request additional literature or ask a question, please contact:

**Grand Rapids Theological Seminary (GRTS)**  
1001 E Beltline Ave NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49525-5897  
800.697.1133 | grts@cornerstone.edu

## Admission Requirements

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary will consider for admission students with bachelor's degrees and a minimum 2.5 G.P.A. from the following types of schools:

1. All regionally accredited institutions.
2. All Association of Theological Schools (ATS) institutions.
3. All Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE) institutions.
4. Select schools accredited by the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS).
5. Non-accredited institutions, if those institutions supply to the Director of Admissions three letters of acceptance from regional, ATS or ABHE accredited institutions.
6. Non-accredited institutions approved on a case-by-case basis.

## Application Process

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary admits qualified persons without regard to denomination or association, race, national or ethnic origin, age, sex or disability.

The seminary operates a "rolling" admissions process for all master's degree programs. You may apply to begin your program during any academic term – fall, spring, J-term or summer. Application for admission is encouraged 4-8 months in advance of your anticipated enrollment date.

Acceptance for admission will be considered upon receipt of the following items:

1. Application for admission, located in the back section of the academic catalog or online at [www.grts.cornerstone.edu](http://www.grts.cornerstone.edu)

2. Official academic transcripts from each undergraduate and graduate school attended
3. One Personal Reference Form
4. One Ministry Reference Form
5. Affirmation of the Statement of Faith and Lifestyle Statement (p. 62), by checking the appropriate box in the Autobiographical Information section of the application form.
6. \$25.00 non-refundable application fee (fee waived for online applications)

### ***Transfer Students***

Students who wish to transfer to Grand Rapids Theological Seminary should submit to the Seminary Admissions Office, with their Application for Admission, transcripts of all credits previously earned. Credit is given for comparable work taken at other accredited seminaries, graduate programs or universities. By approval of the Dean, a maximum of 50 percent of the particular degree program requirements may be fulfilled through transfer credit. See paragraph on "Transfer of Credit" on page 53 for more information.

### ***Readmission***

Any former student who has not been enrolled for one semester or more must apply for readmission. The application for readmission should be submitted at least 30 days prior to the opening date of the semester enrollment is desired. Official academic transcripts of all studies that have been completed in the interval must be submitted. Updated reference forms may also be required. Any student who has not been enrolled for more than 3 academic semesters will be required to submit a full application with all necessary supporting documents.

### ***Non-Degree Enrollment***

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary permits the enrollment of students seeking advanced education in Bible, theology or ministry, without a specific degree objective. These students are required to complete a Non-Degree Application, submit official academic transcripts from all previous undergraduate and graduate schools, and sign a general statement of Christian faith. Non-Degree students who possess an accredited undergraduate degree may take courses for graduate credit, while those without a baccalaureate degree will be limited to enrollment by audit. Students are permitted to take a maximum of 12 credits under the non-degree enrollment status. A maximum of 12 credits achieved under the Non-Degree enrollment status can be utilized in fulfillment of the requirements for a specific degree program.

### ***Guest Students***

GRTS welcomes guest students from other institutions for limited enrollment. A Non-Degree/Guest Application with authorization from the home institution is required for admission. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the home institution will accept the transfer credits. Upon the completion of a given course, an academic transcript can be requested

from the Registrar's Office for the transfer of credits to the home institution.

## **Admission Status**

### ***Full Admission***

An applicant is given full admission to Grand Rapids Theological Seminary when the criteria for application and admission have been fulfilled. Applicants are notified concerning full admission on a rolling basis throughout the year.

In some cases, students can be admitted pending receipt of official documentation to complete their application file. The student's admission status is complete when all documentation arrives at the Seminary Admissions Office and meets all admission and degree program standards. The University reserves the right to reverse an admission decision if the documentation is inconsistent, or the admission and degree program standards are not fully met.

### ***Conditional Admission***

A limited number of students whose cumulative undergraduate grade point average does not meet the minimum degree program admission standard (2.5/4.0) may be granted conditional acceptance upon the recommendation of the GRTS Admissions Committee. In such cases, the conditions of the conditional acceptance and terms for the removal of this status will be provided to the student in writing during the admission process and monitored by the Academic Office. Students enrolled on a conditional admission basis will be limited to a maximum of nine hours per semester. Those students admitted on a conditional admission basis must achieve a minimum 2.5 grade point average. See the section "Scholastic Probation, Suspension and Dismissal on page 51" for more information.

## **Registration**

The registration process provides seminary students with the opportunity to meet with their faculty adviser, to select and register online for courses in the upcoming enrollment period, and to plan how they will complete the remaining requirements of their particular degree program. For continuing students, online course registration occurs each semester on the published dates (See "Academic Calendar"). The Seminary Admissions Office staff will assist new students in course selection and registration during their initial period of enrollment.

Once registered, each student will receive a tuition bill. Each student should then settle his or her financial obligations by doing one of the following: paying in full at the Cornerstone University Business Office, partially paying according to the FACTS payment plan or coordinating financial arrangements with the Cornerstone University Student Financial Services Office. Students will be permitted to attend classes when course registration and financial balances have been finalized.

## New Student Orientation

At the beginning of each fall and spring semester, the Admissions Office hosts New Student Orientation for all first-time students. This orientation provides students with an opportunity to meet seminary faculty and staff and to gain information about campus technology resources, library usage, student identification cards and more. Each student will also be able to meet with his or her faculty adviser individually. Every student should attend orientation in order to make the start of his or her seminary experience as smooth as possible. Please contact the Admissions Office for details. The Admissions Office will also conduct a brief orientation with students beginning in the summer or J-term sessions.

## International Students

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary values presence and contribution of students from the various cultures, countries and continents of the world. In an effort to improve our service to international students and to facilitate a smooth transition, international students are encouraged to begin their degree programs in the fall semester which begins in August.

### *Application Process*

1. **Pre-Application** – Complete the pre-application form and submit it to the GRTS Admissions Office. After GRTS receives and approves your pre-application form, you will be prompted to continue the application process.
2. **Official Application** – Once your pre-application form has been approved, complete the official application for admission, including the \$25 application fee (free online) and all supporting documents including:
  - a. Ministry Reference
  - b. Personal Reference
  - c. Seminary Scholarship Application – all international students will be considered for the Timothy Scholarship, which would cover a portion of your costs.
  - d. Certification of Finances Form – This form will serve as evidence of financial support for the duration of your degree program. You will also need to submit letters of support from each group or individual that will provide financial assistance. Each supporter will need to submit 3 months worth of bank statements demonstrating their ability to meet their commitment. Bank statements should be from the three most recent months.
  - e. Transcripts – Official transcripts must be sent directly from your undergraduate institution to GRTS. Transcript equivalency will be determined by GRTS.
- f. **TOEFL** – International students who are not lifetime residents of Australia, Canada (other than Quebec), New Zealand, United Kingdom, or the United States (other than Puerto Rico) are required to demonstrate their proficiency with the English language by submitting TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) scores taken within one year of the admission application date. GRTS requires a minimum TOEFL score of 577 written, 90 internet based, or 233 computer based for admission. Information about the TOEFL may be obtained from TOEFL, P.O. Box 6154, Princeton, NJ 08541-6154, USA or [www.est.org/toefl](http://www.est.org/toefl). The Grand Rapids Theological Seminary TOEFL institution code is 1253.
3. **Registration** – After you have been accepted to GRTS, the admissions staff will register you for classes (provided registration has begun).
4. **Tuition Deposit** – Once you have been accepted for admission, you will be required to send a tuition deposit of at least the cost of your first semester's tuition and fees. This will be approximately \$5,500 for the 2010-2011 academic year. If for any reason you do not enroll as planned, all of the funds will be returned to you and your supporters immediately.
5. **Student Visa** – After receiving your tuition deposit, we will send you a Certificate of Eligibility for Non-immigrant Student Status. This form is more commonly called the I-20. You will then apply for your student visa at your country's consulate office. You will also need to take the following to the consulate:
  - a. A valid passport – must be valid for a period that extends six months past the last date you expect to be in the USA (which will be your expected date of graduation).
  - b. Proof of sufficient finances – your completed Student Financial Support form, letters of support from each supporter and copies of bank statements verifying that those funds are available.
  - c. Proof of English proficiency – citizenship in English-speaking country or TOEFL examination scores.
6. **Travel** – If you are planning to begin class in the fall, you should plan to arrive in Grand Rapids, Mich., between Aug. 28-30, 2010. This will give you time to get acquainted with the school and the city. It will also allow you to get settled before the beginning of classes. You should plan to attend New Student Orientation on Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2010.



## ***Employment***

International students are allowed to apply for on-campus jobs when available. Students will not be able to work more than a total of 20 hours per week (even if employed in more than one job) and will only be allowed to work if you will not displace a U.S. citizen according to U.S. ICE regulations. The Admissions Office will assist you in applying for a U.S. Social Security number which will be needed to begin working. International students are not permitted to work off-campus without authorization.

### ***Recommended Web sites***

US Government Sites

[www.ice.gov](http://www.ice.gov)

[uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis](http://uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis)

Association of International Educators

[www.nafsa.org](http://www.nafsa.org)

About the City of Grand Rapids

[www.grnow.com](http://www.grnow.com)

Test of English as a Foreign Language

[www.toefl.org](http://www.toefl.org)

International Students Incorporated

[www.internationalstudents.org](http://www.internationalstudents.org)

## **Statement of Non-Discrimination**

Cornerstone University does not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, sex, age or disability in any of its policies and programs.

## **Consumer Information**

### ***Graduation Rate Information***

Available upon request from the Registrar's Office.

### ***Family Education Rights and Privacy Act***

#### ***(FERPA)***

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 requires institutions to obtain written consent from a student prior to releasing information from the student's education record to most sources outside the university. Schools are allowed to release directory information that includes name, address, e-mail address, phone number, date and place of birth, major field of study, dates of attendance, degrees and awards, cumulative hours, participation in officially recognized sports and weight and height of athletes. As an enrolled student, you have the right to restrict the release of directory information. To restrict the release of directory information, contact the Registrar's Office.

### ***Equity in Athletics Disclosure***

To view Cornerstone University's Equity in Athletics Disclosure report, go to <http://ope.ed.gov/athletics/index.asp>. Simply enter Cornerstone University in the "Institution Name" field once you are on the selection screen.

## ***Campus Security Report***

To view the Cornerstone University crime statistics page, visit [www.cornerstone.edu/departments/campus\\_safety/cleary-report](http://www.cornerstone.edu/departments/campus_safety/cleary-report).

### ***Third-Party Servicers***

Cornerstone University has contracted with several third-party servicers for various aspects of the Title IV aid process. Below is a list of those servicers and their responsibilities:

- University Accounting Services – performs Perkins loan billing, servicing and NSLDS reporting functions
- National Student Loan Clearinghouse – reports enrollment data to the NSLDS
- Institute for Professional Development – recruits students for PGS programs, posts aid to PGS student accounts, monitors and issues checks for Title IV credit balances and collects student accounts
- Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation – provides online student loan counseling
- FACTS Management Company – provides payment options for students in traditional programs
- National Enterprise Systems – collects delinquent Perkins loans, institutional loans and student accounts
- RMA – collects delinquent Perkins loans, institutional loans and student accounts
- General Revenue Corporation – collects delinquent Perkins loans, institutional loans and student accounts
- West Michigan Document Shredding – destroys student information that is no longer required to be retained
- Williams and Fudge – collects delinquent Perkins loans, institutional loans and student accounts.

### ***Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Information***

Available in the student handbook.

# STATEMENT OF FAITH AND LIFESTYLE STATEMENT

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Grand Rapids Theological Seminary seeks applicants who demonstrate commitment to Christ and evidence of the new birth, possess gifts for the ministry, have earned a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent from an accredited college or university and affirm the following doctrinal statement (Cornerstone Confession – section 1) which is required for admission, degree candidacy and graduation:

Cornerstone University affirms a core confession of convictions in common with the creeds of the early church, the confessions of the Reformation and all conservative Evangelical Christians.

1. We believe that the Bible is the word of God, truth without error, clear and powerful in its message, sufficient for all of our needs, and final authority for faith and life.
2. We believe in the triune God — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — who is holy, loving, good, wise and almighty; who has created all things by his word out of nothing, who sustains, provides for and rules all things, who is our only redeemer and who will judge all people.
3. We believe that God created men and women in his image and likeness for fellowship with himself and to carry out the creation mandates; that Adam sinned and that by his disobedience the entire race was alienated from God, depraved and totally lost.
4. We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, who added full humanity to his perfect deity, obeyed God perfectly, died for our sins on the cross, rose again to defeat Satan and returned to heaven to pour out the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and to intercede for his people.
5. We believe that the triune God has provided a great salvation for those who repent of their sins and trust Christ and his finished work; that he calls, regenerates, justifies, forgives, adopts, sanctifies, keeps and will glorify them.
6. We believe in the Holy Spirit who has been sent to complete and perfect in us all of the works that Jesus did for us. He convicts of sin, regenerates, sanctifies us, gifts us for ministry and assures us of our salvation.
7. We believe in the personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ, the bodily resurrection and final judgment of the just and the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved, and the everlasting, conscious punishment of the lost.

Students, by virtue of their enrollment, agree to live within the framework of the school's standards of conduct. While some may not have personal convictions concerning all of these standards, agreeing to them obligates the student to assume responsibility for honorable adherence to them while enrolled at the seminary. It should, of course, be understood that any behavior, either on campus or away, which indicates that a student has disregard for the spirit of the schools standards would be sufficient reason to ask him/her to withdraw from the school.

Students of Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, agree to:

1. Honor biblical teaching in order to maintain a right relationship with God, people, and creation. Exhibit integrity in academic pursuits, professional work, personal finances and relationships.
2. Practice discernment in the areas of media and entertainment. Avoid behaviors clearly prohibited in Scripture including but not limited to drunkenness, immoral sexual behavior, lying, and stealing.
3. Support Cornerstone University's commitment to maintain an alcohol-free and tobacco-free campus. This means that the consumption of alcohol or use of tobacco will be prohibited in, on, and around all campus properties and at University events. Due to the public and personal health hazards posed by tobacco, students shall avoid the habitual use of tobacco.
4. Actively participate in a local evangelical church.

# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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## Tuition

|                                                 |       |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Seminary tuition per credit hour.....           | \$435 |
| Master of Theology tuition per credit hour..... | \$450 |

## Semester Fees

|                                                                     |       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Registration Fees (library, registration, student activities, etc.) |       |
| 1 – 4 credit hours.....                                             | \$110 |
| 5 or more credit hours.....                                         | \$215 |
| Technology fee, per credit hour.....                                | \$12  |
| Vehicle Registration.....                                           | \$70  |

## Other Potential Fees

|                                                                                                 |       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Commuter meal plan (25 meals per semester).....                                                 | \$160 |
| Application fee (online free).....                                                              | \$25  |
| Late payment fee (initial charge).....                                                          | \$100 |
| Late payment fee (monthly after initial charge if financial obligations are not fulfilled)..... | \$25  |
| Replacement ID Card fee.....                                                                    | \$10  |
| Payment Plan fees, per semester.....                                                            | \$50  |
| Transcript fee.....                                                                             | \$5   |

## Course Fees

|                                                           |       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Career Development fee (COU-611).....                     | \$50  |
| M.A. Thesis fee (BBL-792, THE-792, MIN-797, COU-792)..... | \$90  |
| Th.M. Thesis fee (BBL-890, THE-890).....                  | \$115 |
| Spiritual Formation Assessment fee (MIN-500).....         | \$150 |

## Monthly Rental rates for On-Campus Apartments

\*Rates include all utilities and local phone

\*A one year lease is required

|                                       |                |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| One bedroom apartment, per month..... | \$530          |
| Two bedroom apartment, per month..... | \$595          |
| Security deposit.....                 | 1 month's rent |

## Indirect costs

|                          |             |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Books, per semester..... | \$240 – 450 |
|--------------------------|-------------|

## Financial Aid

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary provides financial aid to students who can benefit from further education but cannot do so without assistance. GRTS also seeks to recognize students with exceptional abilities in the areas of academics, leadership and ministry enactment. It is important to keep in mind that the primary responsibility for financing a graduate theological education rests with the student. The Cornerstone University Student Financial Services Office, along with the Seminary Admissions Office, is committed to assisting students in receiving the maximum amount of financial assistance for which they qualify under federal and institutional programs.

Students enrolled in five or more credit hours per fall or spring semester are eligible to apply for institutional and federal grants, scholarships and loans. Students seeking consideration for grants, scholarships and loans must file the Seminary Scholarship Application and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on an annual basis. Cornerstone University's code is 002266. Priority consideration for awards is granted on an annual basis to those who apply by March 31 for the fall semester and November 1 for the spring semester. FAFSA applications can be submitted online at [www.fafsa.edu.gov](http://www.fafsa.edu.gov).

It is important that all requested information for institutional and federal aid is submitted in a complete and timely manner. Failure to do so will create delays. Once all requested information is received, the Student Financial Services staff will conduct an evaluation of the file and determine the student's eligibility for gift aid and federal loan eligibility. Notification is sent to students informing them of their awards.

*Conditions for the receipt of an institutional scholarship include attendance at the Legacy Dinner and the writing of thank-you notes to the donor or donor representatives. Further details will be provided to scholarship recipients.*

### **Enrollment Status**

A student's enrollment status is used for determining federal and state eligibility and for reporting enrollment information for loan deferment eligibility, insurance eligibility, etc.

Institutional financial aid is calculated based on a financial aid enrollment level rather than the official full-time/part-time enrollment status. Contact the Student Financial Services office for more information regarding these levels.

Enrollment status for state and federal aid eligibility is as follows:

| Program              | Full-Time | Half-Time |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| GRTS                 | 9         | 5         |
| M.A. Min. Leadership | 6         | 3         |
| Th.M                 | 8         | 4         |

### **Payment of Bills**

The balance for total tuition and fees is reduced by all financial aid credits a student receives for that semester. Bills will be sent to students prior to the beginning of each semester providing the student registers in a timely manner. Students have two choices for paying the balance due:

Pay in Full: Payment due dates for each semester will be indicated on the semester bill.

Payment Plan: Students may choose to pay the balance due in four equal monthly installments. Fall semester payment due dates are Aug. 1, Sept. 1, Oct. 1 and Nov. 1. Spring semester payment due dates are Jan. 1, Feb. 1, March 1 and April 1. There is a payment plan fee of \$50 per semester. Students who do not pay as arranged on the payment plan may be excluded from using the payment plan in succeeding terms.

Late payment fees may be added to accounts not paid as arranged. A finance charge of 1 percent per month may be assessed on any unpaid balance. Accounts are expected to be paid in full before taking examinations, obtaining transcripts, receiving diplomas or registering for a succeeding term.

### **Withdrawal Refunds**

#### **Withdrawal from Individual Courses:**

Students who do not officially withdraw from a course will receive a failing grade for that course. Students withdrawing from individual courses will receive refunds based upon the following schedule:

|                            |                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| One week or less .....     | 100% of tuition |
| Second week .....          | 86% of tuition  |
| Third week .....           | 80% of tuition  |
| Fourth week .....          | 73% of tuition  |
| Fifth week .....           | 66% of tuition  |
| Sixth week .....           | 60% of tuition  |
| Seventh week .....         | 53% of tuition  |
| Eighth week .....          | 46% of tuition  |
| Ninth week .....           | 40% of tuition  |
| More than nine weeks ..... | No refund       |

Appropriate adjustments will be made to financial aid programs following formulas mandated by federal, state and institutional regulations. Students whose enrollment status (i.e., full time, three-quarters time, half-time) would change if classes were dropped should consult with the Student Financial Services Office to determine the extent of these adjustments.

#### **Withdrawal from the Institution:**

Tuition refunds for students who withdraw from the seminary during the course of the semester, as well as those who are dismissed or suspended, will be computed as follows:

|                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| One week or less ..... | 100% of tuition |
| Second week .....      | 86% of tuition  |
| Third week .....       | 80% of tuition  |
| Fourth week .....      | 73% of tuition  |
| Fifth week .....       | 66% of tuition  |
| Sixth week .....       | 60% of tuition  |
| Seventh week .....     | 53% of tuition  |
| Eighth week .....      | 46% of tuition  |
| Ninth week .....       | 40% of tuition  |
| More than weeks .....  | No refund       |

Students receiving financial aid who withdraw from the institution during the semester may be required to return a portion of the aid to the appropriate programs. A calculation will be made based on the student's withdrawal date to see what portion of the financial aid must be returned. Students may request a copy of the refund and repayment policy from the Student Financial Services Office.

#### **Federal Title IV Aid**

If a student withdraws before completing 60 percent of the semester or period of enrollment, the institution must determine the percentage of Title IV assistance the student has earned. The percent earned is determined by dividing the total number of calendar days in the semester into the number of calendar days completed as of the withdrawal date. Any unearned amount must be returned to the Title IV program(s).

***Institutional Aid***

Institutional financial aid is reduced by the percent of the tuition and fees originally covered by the institutional aid. The student may retain an amount equal to the percent of the actual tuition and fees charged based on the withdrawal date. The remaining amount must be returned to the institutional programs.

**Institutional Grants*****Grand Rapids Theological Seminary Grant***

The seminary provides a limited amount of financial assistance to qualified new and returning students through the Grand Rapids Theological Seminary Grant. This grant is awarded on the basis of demonstrated financial need and enrollment status. In-residence study and at least half-time enrollment (five hours per semester) are required.

Priority consideration will be given to students who file the Seminary Scholarship Application and FAFSA between Jan. 1 and March 31. Late applications for financial aid will be accepted until the first week of the fall semester for new students. Grand Rapids Theological Seminary Grants will be awarded on a rolling basis until the funds have been exhausted. The Seminary Scholarship Application and FAFSA information are available at [grts.cornerstone.edu](http://grts.cornerstone.edu).

**Institutional Scholarships**

Students who are enrolled in five or more credit hours are eligible to apply for scholarships by submitting the FAFSA and the Seminary Scholarship Application.

***Paul A. Beals Missions Scholarship***

The Paul A. Beals Missions Scholarship will be awarded to new and continuing students who demonstrate commitment to cross-cultural ministry as evidenced in their degree program selection and concentration. New students must have achieved a 3.0 cumulative G.P.A. in an undergraduate program and continuing students must possess a minimum 3.24 G.P.A.

***Church Planting Scholarship***

The Church Planting Scholarship is made available through a gift from a supporter of the seminary who has special interest in new church plants. The scholarship is awarded to students who enroll in one or all of the church planting courses (MIN-537, MIN-538 and MIN-539). To qualify for the scholarship, each applicant must possess a commitment to church planting and schedule a personal meeting with the course professor.

***Carl B. Hoch, Jr. Scholarship***

The Carl B. Hoch, Jr. Endowed Scholarship was created in honor of Carl B. Hoch, Jr., to benefit a Grand Rapids Theological Seminary student who demonstrates an

outstanding ability in Greek and New Testament studies. The Carl B. Hoch, Jr. Scholarship is renewable.

***Joe Crawford Scholarship***

The Joe Crawford Scholarship is awarded to students who demonstrate excellent promise for church-related ministry or church-related missions. The candidate will have completed a minimum of 20 hours of course work at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary with a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.5 or above. Financial need is not required, but will be considered in the selection process.

***Clarence and Pauline Doane Scholarship***

The Clarence and Pauline Doane Scholarship is awarded to degree-seeking students who have demonstrated excellent promise for missions or pastoral ministry. Returning students must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative G.P.A. Priority is given to students who are members of churches in fellowship with the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches.

***David Eifert Scholarship***

The David Eifert Scholarship is made available in memory of David Eifert who died while enrolled at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary. The scholarship is awarded to candidates who show promise for ministry and demonstrate academic achievement. Recommendation for this scholarship is presented by the Ministry Division faculty.

***Esther Gilbertson Scholarship***

The Esther Gilbertson Scholarship is awarded to continuing students who are preparing for vocational ministry and maintain a 3.0 or higher G.P.A.

***Global Impact Scholarship***

The Global Impact Scholarship is provided for full-time students who are academic scholars, demonstrate financial need, and major in studies that direct them toward full-time ministry or international missions. New and returning students must have achieved a minimum 3.0 G.P.A. and enroll in at least 12 credit hours each semester.

***James Murray Grier Academic Scholarship***

The James Murray Grier Academic Scholarship assists students who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement through a minimum cumulative G.P.A. of 3.7 in undergraduate study for new students and at the graduate level for returning students.

### ***Gerald O. and Henrietta A. Jennex Scholarship***

The Gerald O. and Henrietta A. Jennex Scholarship will be awarded to candidates who demonstrate, through gifts and commitment, great promise for professional pastoral ministry. Awards will be granted to returning students who demonstrate a pattern of ministry involvement, a minimum 2.8 G.P.A. and financial need. Eligibility for this scholarship is limited to two years.

### ***David and Coila Kennedy Scholarship***

The David and Coila Kennedy Scholarship is provided for seminary students who are seeking a Master of Divinity degree and preparing for ministry. Returning students must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative G.P.A. and financial need is considered.

### ***Macy Mission Scholarship***

The Macy Mission Scholarship is provided for students who are members of a missionary family or plan to pursue full time mission work, who are making satisfactory academic progress toward a degree and demonstrate financial need.

### ***Woodrow McCaleb Leadership Scholarship***

The Woodrow McCaleb Leadership Scholarship is awarded to new and returning students who demonstrate strong ministry leadership qualities and excellent promise for church-related ministry or church-related missions. Financial need is not required, but will be considered in the selection process.

### ***Kenneth and Lorraine Nienhuis Scholarship for Pastoral Ministry***

The Kenneth and Lorraine Nienhuis Scholarship for Pastoral Ministry is provided for students who have demonstrated excellent promise for pastoral ministry. Applicants must have completed 32 semester hours with a minimum 3.0 G.P.A. toward a degree at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary.

### ***George Samuelson Scholarship***

The George Samuelson Scholarship is awarded to students who demonstrate excellent promise for church-related ministry or church-related missions. The candidate must complete a minimum of 20 semester hours of course work at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary with a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.5 or above. Financial need is not required, but will be considered in the selection process. Recommendations for this scholarship are made by the Ministry Division faculty.

### ***Sugden Seminary Scholarship***

The Sugden Seminary Scholarship is given to returning students who demonstrate excellent promise for professional pastoral ministry through commitment to God's word and unique skill in biblical communication. Financial need is not required but will be considered in

the selection process. Recommendations are made by the Ministry Division faculty.

### ***Dallas Thompson Scholarship***

The Dallas Thompson Scholarship is awarded to unmarried students who are making satisfactory progress toward a degree at GRTS and demonstrate financial need.

### ***Timothy Scholarship***

The Timothy Scholarship is primarily designated for the education of European pastors. It is also extended to international students in general when funds are available. Candidates must be planning for church-related ministry and demonstrate the necessary gifts for ministry. Financial need is considered.

### ***Wielhouwer Scholarship***

The Wielhouwer Scholarship is awarded to students who maintain active involvement in ministry while attending seminary. Special consideration will be given to students seeking pastoral or chaplaincy vocational ministry.

### ***President's Student Scholarship Fund***

The President's Student Scholarship Fund assists students who have a commitment to enter foreign missions or demonstrate a unique financial need after one year of enrollment (minimum 24 semester hours completed) or have a need for financial assistance toward a cross-cultural mission opportunity. Applicants may also be required to submit an essay and/or meet with a GRTS administrator.

## **Loans**

### ***Federal Stafford Loan Program***

Eligibility for the Federal Stafford Loan is determined through the submission of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This federally insured loan program is available to all qualified degree-seeking students enrolled at least half-time at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary. The government pays the interest while the student is in school, for those who qualify for a subsidized need-based loan. Students who are awarded unsubsidized loans are responsible for paying the interest while in school, which accrues from the date of disbursement. Repayment of both principal and interest begins six months after the student ceases at least half-time enrollment or graduates. Loan promissory notes can be completed online at [www.cornerstone.edu/financialaid/loans](http://www.cornerstone.edu/financialaid/loans).

### ***Statement of Educational Purpose***

To receive federal financial aid, a student must be enrolled as a degree-seeking student. The student must sign a statement indicating that all federal financial aid will be used for expenses related to study at Cornerstone University.

**Statement of Refund and Default**

To receive federal financial aid, a student must not owe a refund or an overpayment of any federal grant or loan. A student must not be in default on any federal student loan or must have made satisfactory arrangements to repay any such defaulted loan, and also have not borrowed in excess of the loan limits under federal student loan programs at all institutions previously attended.

**Selective Service Registration**

Male students who are United States citizens or permanent resident aliens born after Dec. 31, 1959, are required to comply with Selective Service registration regulations prior to receiving federal financial aid.

**Satisfactory Academic Progress**

Students must make satisfactory academic progress as defined by Cornerstone University to be eligible for financial aid. There will be a pro-rated adjustment in the academic progress criteria for part-time students.

In order to continue to receive financial aid, a student must be progressing at a rate that would allow for completion of their program within a period not greater than 150 percent of the normal program length.

**Repeated Courses**

Federal rules do not permit a student to receive aid for a particular course more than once unless the school grants the student additional credit for the repeated course. Based on this information, a student can only receive financial aid when retaking a course if he/she initially failed or withdrew from the class.

**Hours Completed Requirements**

| Hours Completed | Minimum Percent Completed |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 1-24            | 65%                       |
| 25-48           | 70%                       |
| 49+             | 75%                       |

Satisfactory academic progress for the purpose of financial aid is evaluated at the end of each academic year. Copies of the complete policy are available at the Student Financial Services Office.

**Bol Loan Fund**

The Bol Loan provides small, interest-free loans to seminarians preparing for the chaplaincy in the Armed Forces of the United States. Written inquiry should be directed to the Student Financial Services Office.

**General Information****Verification Process**

Approximately 30 percent of those seeking Federal Stafford Student Loans will be required to participate in the verification process. Verification is a process whereby the validity of the data reported is confirmed through the submission and review of specific

documents. If the student is selected for verification, aid will not be awarded until the process is completed.

**Federal Student Loan Deferment**

Deferment of Stafford Student Loans is available to most students enrolled for degree seeking graduate study. Approval of a Stafford Student Loan deferment will necessitate student enrollment of at least five credits per semester (classified as at least half-time). The Stafford Student Loan Deferment Form should be processed through the Cornerstone University Student Financial Services Office. The loan deferment form cannot be certified by the Student Financial Services Office until after the student has begun classes.

**Veterans Benefits**

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary cooperates with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in processing benefits for the education of honorably discharged service members. Veterans who wish to use the benefits should obtain the necessary forms and instructions from the nearest office of Veterans Affairs or the Cornerstone Student Financial Services Office. It should be understood that students receiving these benefits will be reimbursed directly by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Veterans should plan to pay their bills in accordance with the seminary payment schedule. The grade point average of veterans will be monitored at the end of each semester. Veterans who are placed on academic probation and fail to come off probation within two additional semesters will be reported to the Department of Veterans Affairs. This action may result in termination of benefits by the Department of Veterans Affairs. If benefits are terminated, the veteran may reapply to the seminary for reinstatement of the benefits after the probationary status has been removed. Veterans entering as transfer students will be provided a written statement of the number of credits accepted in transfer and the number of required credits remaining to complete the program. The Cornerstone University Student Financial Services Office will also provide a copy of this information to the Department of Veterans Affairs. This information will be provided to the student prior to submission of the enrollment certification for veterans' benefits and will be based on the student's stated educational goals. This transfer credit evaluation may be subject to change should the student decide to change degree program or major/concentration.

# STUDENT LIFE

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## Student Services

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary offers a range of services to students, spouses of students and alumni. These academic and non-academic services are intended to foster personal spiritual transformation, leadership development and aid students in achieving their intended educational and vocational goals.

## Alumni Association

The Cornerstone University Alumni Association is comprised of graduates from the associate, baccalaureate, master and doctoral degree programs. Non-degree alumni are individuals that have achieved 36+ semester hours in the undergraduate program or 12+ semester hours at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary or within the Professional and Graduate Studies. The CU Alumni Association exists to serve alumni in their roles as influencers for Christ by developing connections, facilitating celebrations and encouraging contributions. The Association will support and partner with alumni through opportunities to expand relationships, grow as lifelong learners and engage with the mission of the university by serving with their individual giftedness.

## Accounting and Finance Office

The Cornerstone University Business Office is located in the Administration Building and accepts payments for all student accounts. This office provides check-cashing services and parking tags to students with a valid identification card. The hours of operation are posted at the Business Office.

## Campus Safety

The primary mission of the Cornerstone University Department of Campus Safety is to proactively ensure the personal safety and welfare of our students and staff, protect the assets of our campus citizens and University, and provide a variety of services to the campus community as well. The Department of Campus Safety is a 24/7/365 dispatch and patrol operation based in Faber Hall. For general or emergency contact dial 0 (zero) from any campus phone or 616.949.5300 from any other phone. Internal and external Code Blue emergency phones are located throughout our campus.

Services include vehicle battery boosts, vehicle lockouts, airing up low tires, and tow truck contact assists. Campus Safety also provides routine foot and vehicle patrols of the campus, responds to calls and investigates incidents. Campus Safety personnel are trained in first aid and equipped to respond to campus medical incidents in conjunction with the appropriate local 9-1-1

organizations. Campus Safety works in partnership with campus citizens. We encourage everyone to be proactive and vigilant with us. We request that any concerns be reported immediately.

All students are required to carry their student ID cards when on campus and present them when requested by an officer. All student vehicles must be registered for each academic semester and the appropriate vehicle parking permit properly displayed on the vehicle's windshield. Vehicles are registered at the Accounting and Finance Office located in the Administration Building. Detailed information regarding Campus Safety, campus rules and regulations, and other pertinent safety information is available through the Cornerstone University Web site and the Cornerstone Eagle's Nest Portal.

## Career Services

Career Services provides services to assist students as they prepare for careers. Career Services is located in upper level Corum Student Union and is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. After hours, appointments can be scheduled by calling 616.222.1433 or e-mail at [career@cornerstone.edu](mailto:career@cornerstone.edu).

### *Career Development*

The services related to career development are best described in three steps:

**Step One** – This first step involves assessing all aspects related to the student's career choice. Assessments that cover interest, skills, abilities, characteristics, values, gifts and talents are used. These attributes comprise the student's career identity. While discussing the results of these assessments, the Career Services staff recommends a variety of optional career opportunities to explore. Information regarding the necessary academic credentials for the particular career is also provided.

**Step Two** – Closely related to step one, this second step is also exploratory in nature. The student is given the opportunity to research career alternatives by reading, talking to people in the career, and doing informational interviews. The student is encouraged to experience the career through volunteering, part-time work, and job shadowing.

**Step Three** – The student will begin to develop self-marketing strategies by learning how to write a resume and cover letter, effective interviewing skills, self-presentation and body language, building a network within their career field, attending job fairs, doing an internship, and seeking opportunities through other resources available through the Career Services office.



### ***Employment Opportunities***

Career Services has part-time, full-time, and summer employment listings available at its Web site. A person must sign up on the job posting site to access job listings. The Career Services listings include many ministry related opportunities, as well as positions available while attending Seminary. Additional ministry related employment opportunities are posted in the lounge area of the Wood Seminary Building.

### ***Ministry Referral Service***

Career Services provides a ministry referral service to churches looking for senior pastors, associate pastors or ministry leaders looking for specific ministry positions. Students interested in this service visit the seminary Web site.

### ***International Students***

International students are encouraged to apply for on-campus jobs. They will not be able to work more than a total of 20 hours per week (even if employed in more than one job) and will only be allowed to work if they will not displace a US citizen, according to US I.C.E. regulations. The graduate Admissions Office will assist international students in applying for a US Social Security number, which will be needed to begin working. Off-campus employment is allowed on an extremely limited basis in the event of financial distress. In that case, the student will need to apply with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

### **Carl B. Hoch, Jr. Book Room**

Named in honor of its founder and a former GRTS New Testament professor, the Carl B. Hoch, Jr. Book Room provides Grand Rapids Theological Seminary and the Cornerstone University community with the finest resources for biblical, theological and ministry scholarship. Seminary textbooks and supplemental theological literature is available at competitive rates. The Book Room is located in the Wood Seminary building and operates according to a posted time schedule.

### **Computer Access**

The primary computer laboratory for GRTS students is located on the first floor of the Wood Seminary Building. Additional computer laboratories are available to seminary students in Bolthouse Hall and Miller Library. Hours of access will be posted at each location. Individual student access (user name and password) is arranged for all new students at the outset of the semester. A computer training session is included in the new student orientation. Difficulties with individual access, file management and printing within the Wood Seminary Building computer lab should be directed to the GRTS office staff, located on the second floor of the seminary building.

### **Counseling Services**

While the graduate school experience is exciting, it also can be stressful, filled with transitions, challenges and growth. Self-evaluation tools and links to information that can help with many of these issues can be found on the Counseling Services Web site at [www.cornerstone.edu/departments/counseling\\_services](http://www.cornerstone.edu/departments/counseling_services). Referrals to off-campus professional resources are available by calling the director of Counseling Services at 616.222.1533.

### **Financial Services**

The Student Financial Services Office is committed to assisting students in receiving the maximum amount of financial assistance they qualify under federal, state and institutional programs. The university catalog has additional financial aid information. Please refer to the "Financial Aid" section for details on applying for aid and on specific aid programs.

If further information is needed, contact the Student Financial Services Office, located in the Ketcham Building. Appointments with a financial aid professional can be made between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday by calling 616.222.1424.

### **Health Services**

Health Services is located in Miller Hall and is available to students, the spouse of a student, faculty or staff members who are ill or injured while on campus. Qualified staff include a receptionist and a registered nurse throughout the daytime hours. A family practice physician and a physician's assistant/registered dietician are available several hours per week. Appointments are available; walk-ins are welcome. Medical services include allergy injections, TB tests, immunizations, crutches, suture removal, work physicals, pelvic exams, premarital HIV counseling; and care for various illnesses (i.e. the common cold, strep, mono, urinary tract infection and pregnancy testing.)

If a graduate student is carrying at least 5 credit hours, the charges to see a provider or testing for various illnesses can be completed on campus and sent to the student insurance company. Minimal and fair charges for supplies used for special needs for individuals will be billed to the individuals own insurance which are not acute or injury related. Laboratory services are available per the university provider's orders or the student's own physician's orders. Many health education brochures are available on college-related issues.

### ***Immunizations and Hospitalization***

All incoming students are required to submit immunization records and health history. This is required once every four years. These records are required for the protection of each student. Neglecting to complete these forms may delay the registration process for the student. Illnesses, accidents and hospitalizations should be reported to health services. Arrangements concerning accidents, hospitalizations or extended illnesses are handled through health services. The deans' offices and professors are then notified as needed.

Health Services Hours:  
Monday – Friday: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Tuesday: Noon – 8 p.m.  
Phone number: 616.222.1441

### ***Medical Emergencies***

During office hours, contact Health Services.

If on campus after office hours, contact a member of the residence life staff who may contact Health Services or campus safety personnel. If off campus, you may call Health Services or seek your own emergency help. Emergency personnel in Kent County and the City of Grand Rapids may be reached by dialing 911 from an on-campus phone. Be sure you know the address from where you place a call.

### ***Insurance***

Cornerstone University offers a student injury and sickness insurance plan to all students of the University, including the students of Grand Rapids Theological Seminary. This is a premium based plan. Interested students can obtain an insurance brochure from Cornerstone University Health Services. Applications can be submitted with payment to the Accounting Office within 30 days of the beginning of each semester.

## **Housing Arrangements**

### ***Off-Campus Housing***

The greater Grand Rapids area offers a wide range of housing options for the seminary student. Housing costs are quite reasonable compared to national averages. A guide to many of the apartment complexes in the area is available upon request through the GRTS Admissions Office.

## **Miller Library**

Miller Library is an attractive and comfortable facility that provides independent learning resources for both Cornerstone University and Grand Rapids Theological Seminary. Group study rooms are available and wireless access to the Internet is provided. Miller Library's collection includes approximately 160,000 books and audiovisual items, 288,000 microfilms, 2,600 current periodical subscriptions, and full-text access to at least 25,000 other journals. Miller Library also houses the university archives and the Curriculum Materials Center for teacher education students. Book discussion groups, guest lectures and visiting exhibits are part of the library's outreach program. The library also

provides access to off campus resources outside its walls such as catalogs of other academic libraries, some 31,000 ebooks, numerous Internet resources such as OMR's FirstSearch (including ATLA Religion), JSTOR and about 100 other research databases. The library's Web site is an excellent resource that serves as a gateway and guide to a world of information. Students also have access by a shared online catalog to our sister library at Puritan Reformed Seminary on Leonard Street. Research assistance for GRTS students is provided by a full-time theological librarian. Students are encouraged to visit Miller Library's Web site at [www.cornerstone.edu/library](http://www.cornerstone.edu/library).

## **Ministry Referral**

The seminary offers an online referral system called MinistryConnect, a system that allows students, alumni and ministries to make connections for potential ministry residency opportunities. In addition, this service will serve the community by offering alumni and friends of the seminary the opportunity to connect with ministries seeking ministry leaders, and vice versa. MinistryConnect allows us to support our GRTS students, recent graduates and alumni as they seek ministry roles locally, nationally and globally. MinistryConnect strengthens our ability to encourage connection of the right people with the right ministries. Students and alumni can access MinistryConnect through the GRTS Web site.

## **Registrar Services**

The Cornerstone University Registrar's Office is located in the Administration Building and offers various services related to the maintenance of student academic records. The Registrar Office staff is available to assist students in registering for courses, acquiring or mailing official academic transcripts, acquiring an individualized degree audit, evaluating and processing advanced standing and/or transfer credit from other institutions, and posting grades. Hours of operation are 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. during the academic year and 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. during summer months.

## **Spouse Benefit**

The spouse educational benefit is intended to provide spouses of Grand Rapids Theological Seminary students with opportunities to participate in the theological educational experience in order to promote a shared pilgrimage of growth and learning. The spouse of a Grand Rapids Theological Seminary student, regardless of prior academic record, is entitled to one free audit class for every 12 semester hours accumulated and/or enrolled by the degree-seeking student. The benefit is limited to one free audit course per semester and a maximum of four free audit courses per individual. This audit opportunity provides for class attendance only, course work will not be submitted or graded and there will be no official academic record. The benefit does not extend to courses available by extension and is not financially applicable to courses taken for credit. These

courses may be taken during or immediately following any semester in which the degree-seeking student is enrolled. Each participating spouse is required to process a Spouse Benefit Form with the Seminary Academic Office in advance of each semester of audit enrollment. In addition, each participating spouse is required to submit a non-degree application to the Seminary Admissions Office.

## Student Appeal Process Non-Academic

On occasion, existing policy and/or faculty and administrative decisions can conflict with the interests of individuals. When such a situation occurs, the student should exhaust all options to resolve the conflict at the staff, administrative or faculty level. However, students wishing to appeal beyond the initial level are encouraged to write a letter of appeal. The letter should identify and explain the nature of the conflict, request a review of the judgment and/or action and provide a rationale for the appeal. The letter of appeal should be sent to the Dean of Students at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary. Personal appointments with the Dean of Students on such matters may be scheduled only after a formal letter of appeal has been submitted. Upon receiving the student appeal, the Dean of Students will engage in an investigation of the grievance and seek to foster an acceptable resolution. If an acceptable resolution to the conflict/grievance is not possible, the Dean of Students will coordinate a meeting of the faculty student appeals committee. The committee will review the grievance and the facts of the case, and render a judgment. The judgment will be rendered within 10 business days of receipt of the grievance, the response to the appeal will be in writing, and all judgments of the faculty academic appeals committee are final.

## Student Senate Leadership Team

The Student Senate Leadership Team (SSLT) is a representative group of GRTS students selected annually by the Dean of Students to serve the needs of the entire student body. SSLT members serve the student community by coordinating resources, services and events. The team consists of five positions: International Student Coordinator; Communication Coordinator; Tutor Coordinator; Community Life Coordinator; and Chapel Coordinator. The central aims of the Student Senate Leadership Team are:

1. To assist students with academic and non-academic concerns as they enter and progress through study at GRTS.
2. To promote student involvement and perspective in the community of learners and scholars at GRTS.
3. To foster a sense of community appropriate to a graduate theological education context.
4. To coordinate fellowship and spiritual growth opportunities among and between students and faculty at GRTS.

## Enrichment Opportunities

### *Chapel*

The chapel experience is central to the life of the Grand Rapids Theological Seminary community. The seminary provides one chapel sessions per week for faculty and student participation. Grand Rapids Theological Seminary chapel provides opportunity to worship God as a graduate theological community, model Biblical preaching and interact with mission and parachurch representatives.

### *Thursday Evening Bible Class (TEBC)*

Annually, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary offers the community a Fall Bible teaching series through the Thursday Evening Bible Class. These Biblical lectures are delivered by faculty of the seminary and typically run from 8-12 weeks. Several hundred individuals from the community attend each series, representing a variety of Christian denominations and associations.

### *Staley Lecture Series*

Each year Cornerstone University, in cooperation with the seminary, sponsors a distinguished lecturer under the sponsorship of the Staley Foundation. The series is scheduled for one week of lectures on a relevant subject during the Spring semester.

### *Talking Points*

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary provides continuing education opportunities for students, alumni and area ministry leaders through Talking Points. With an event offered each Fall and Spring semester, Talking Points engages critical issues relevant to theological thought and ministry practice (i.e., exegetical, theological and ministry practice) through lectures, panel discussions and round table discussions. GRTS faculty and other regional and national figures serve as the facilitators and presenters for these events.

### *Women's Studies Lecture Series*

Annually, GRTS offers an evening event featuring a guest lecturer who addresses topics relevant to the study of women and gender roles from a theological and psychological perspective. The purpose of this series is to provide a forum where students, faculty and friends of GRTS can engage in an open dialogue about the connection between Christian worldview and gender reconciliation. The guest lecturers contribute sound information to help people become more informed and aware of identity issues for women, and how all individuals can seek unity regarding these issues. Each of these evening events involves a lecture followed by Q & A, and concludes with a dessert buffet to provide a time of fellowship.

# COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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## Interpretive Aids

Academic Divisions are represented by the first three letters within the course number:

- BBL Exegetical/Biblical Theology
- THE Systematic/Historical/Philosophical Theology
- MIN Ministry Theology
- COU Counseling

Course Level is represented by the first digit in the course number:

- 5 Junior
- 6 Middler
- 7 Senior
- 8 Master of Theology

Course Department and discipline are represented by the second digit in the course number:

### **Bible**

- 0-1 Foundations to Biblical Exegesis
- 2-4 Old Testament
- 5-7 New Testament
- 8-9 Special Enrollments in Bible

### **Theology**

- 0 Foundations to Theological Inquiry
- 1-3 Historical Theology
- 4-6 Systematic Theology
- 7 Moral and Philosophical Theology
- 8-9 Special Enrollments in Theology

### **Ministry**

- 0-1 Foundations to Ministry Leadership
- 2-3 Pastoral Ministries
- 4-5 Educational Ministries
- 6-7 Intercultural Ministries
- 8-9 Special Enrollments in Ministry

### **Counseling**

- 0 Foundations of Counseling
- 1-7 Counseling
- 8-9 Special Enrollments in Counseling

## EXEGETICAL/BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

The Bible Division of Grand Rapids Theological Seminary is committed to the fundamental importance of Scripture in ministry. Pastors, missionaries, educators and other Christian workers must be able to interpret and apply Scripture for effective ministry in the modern world.

The Old Testament and New Testament departments offer courses in the background, languages, books and themes of the Bible. The objective of these courses is to develop a methodology for lifelong biblical study. Seminary studies are an introduction to the disciplines that are necessary for exegetically accurate and culturally relevant Bible exposition. Therefore, the exegetical/biblical theology courses provide the formative tools and skills students will need for ministry. The student must sharpen these tools and skills through continued study and ministry beyond seminary.

### OLD TESTAMENT

The Old Testament department seeks to equip students with foundational knowledge and skill in interpreting and applying the Hebrew Scriptures. Depending upon the specific program of studies, courses focus upon learning biblical Hebrew, the primary language of the Old Testament, developing skills in exegeting biblical texts, understanding the historical and cultural worldview of the Old Testament and tracing the historical development of key concepts of Old Testament biblical theology. Specific studies are offered in the various parts of the Old Testament in the context of God's completed revelation.

### NEW TESTAMENT

New Testament studies seek the fundamental skill of enabling the student to make reasoned judgments about the meaning of the New Testament text. Such skill includes the knowledge of biblical languages, the historical background of the text, the principles for interpreting the text and the skills to apply these tools. The key theological ideas of the New Testament are traced through their historical development in the text.

## FACULTY

### **JOHN LAWLOR**

*Professor of Old Testament*

### **GARY MEADORS**

*Professor of New Testament*

### **DAVID TURNER**

*Professor of New Testament*

### **DAVID KENNEDY**

*Associate Professor of Old Testament*

### **ANDREW SMITH**

*Associate Professor of Bible*

### **DWAYNE ADAMS**

*Assistant Professor of Bible*

### **LINDA BELLEVILLE**

*Adjunct Professor of New Testament*

## COURSES

- BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics 3**  
An introduction to the process of determining the original meaning and contemporary significance of biblical texts. The course includes lecture, discussion and individual research. This course is available both on campus and by extension, and must be completed within the first 15 credits of enrollment.
- BBL-502 Old Testament Biblical Theology 3**  
A study of Old Testament history, literature and theology with emphasis upon the historical development of key concepts of Old Testament biblical theology. This course is available both on campus and by distance education.
- BBL-503 New Testament Biblical Theology 3**  
A study of the leading themes of the New Testament as these themes correlate into a New Testament biblical theology.
- BBL-505 History and Culture of Israel and the Ancient Near East 3**  
A survey of Israel's history in light of the history of the ancient Near East, with an introduction to Old Testament historiography and archaeological method. A comparison and contrast of elements of Israel's culture with that of other ancient Near Eastern cultures.
- BBL-506 Bible Lands Studies 1-3**  
Through extensive travel and on-site study, an in-depth knowledge of the history and geography of Israel can be acquired. The trip includes acquaintance with the methods and value of biblical archaeology; the course may include excavation at an archaeological site. Offered only in the summer on request.

- BBL-510 Greek I** 4  
A study of the elements of Koine Greek.
- BBL-511 Greek II** 3  
A continuation of Greek I with exercises in reading the Greek New Testament, introduction to NT Textual Criticism, and the use of basic lexical and syntactical tools.  
Prerequisite: BBL-510 Greek I
- BBL-512 Greek Reading and Review** 2  
A remedial course which reviews the basics of Greek grammar and improves translation skills.  
Prerequisites: BBL-510 Greek I and BBL-511 Greek II, or equivalent
- BBL-516 Hebrew I** 4  
An introduction to the basic grammar and vocabulary of biblical Hebrew.
- BBL-517 Hebrew II** 3  
A continuation of Hebrew I with emphasis on grammar, syntax and expansion of vocabulary by means of translating simple texts.  
Prerequisite: BBL-516 Hebrew I
- BBL-520 Genesis** 3  
Analysis of the English text in terms of the historicity, theology, cultural background and significance of this book of beginnings.  
Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics
- BBL-523 Psalms** 3  
A study of the forms of Psalms with an analysis of selected Psalms, including their continuing significance. This course is available both on campus and by distance education.  
Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics
- BBL-524 Daniel** 3  
An analysis of the English text of Daniel, its structure and message, and its contributions to Old Testament biblical theology, especially eschatology.  
Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics
- BBL-550 The Gospel of Matthew** 3  
Exposition of this Gospel with emphasis on its themes of Christology, kingdom and church.  
Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics
- BBL-552 The Gospel of Luke** 3  
An examination of the Gospel of Luke with concentration on its message and preparation of narrative material for preaching and teaching. This course is available both on campus and by distance education.  
Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics
- BBL-553 The Acts of the Apostles** 3  
An exegetical examination of the Acts of the Apostles with concentration on the biblical theology of the Book of the Acts, the historical background of events and the theological emphasis of the speeches. Special attention is given to the relationship between the church and Israel in the early church era. This course is available both on campus and by distance education.  
Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics
- BBL-554 Romans** 3  
An exposition of this letter in terms of its significance for biblical and systematic theology.  
Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics
- BBL-556 Pastoral Epistles** 3  
Interpretation of 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus in relationship to ministry and church life.  
Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics
- BBL-557 Hebrews** 3  
A verse-by-verse interpretation of the epistle with special attention to the literary structure, the use of the Old Testament, the Christology and the problem of apostasy. This course is available both on campus and by distance education.  
Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics
- BBL-559 Revelation** 3  
An exposition of the Apocalypse in view of genre, history of interpretation, structure and theological significance.  
Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics
- BBL-584 Thesis Readings:  
Bible (O.T. or N.T.)** 1-3  
An independent readings course in preparation for writing a master's thesis that focuses on the Old Testament or the New Testament. The student will read approximately 2,000 pages and structure a thesis proposal under the guidance of a thesis advisor and in accordance with seminary standards for form and style. Registration for this course requires advisor approval.
- BBL-600 Biblical Archaeology** 3  
A study of archaeological method and an investigation of archaeological excavations in the Near East, emphasizing the contributions of artifactual data for understanding the history and culture of both the Old and New Testament periods.

**BBL-601 Geographical and Historical Settings of the Bible** 4

An intensive three-week course in Israel emphasizing the history, geography and archaeology of biblical times. Using materials provided by the Jerusalem University College (formerly Institute of Holy Land Studies, Jerusalem), students complete map and atlas assignments prior to arrival in Israel. Once in the land, they are given preparatory study and lectures to provide the background for field trips throughout Israel.

**BBL-602 New Testament Historical Backgrounds** 3

A detailed study of the historical period from the Persian period through the Bar Kokhba's revolt as an aid to interpreting the New Testament within its historical and cultural setting.

**BBL-610 Seminar in Old Testament Exegesis** 3

An exegetical study of a selected Old Testament book. Specific book studies will vary from year to year. Emphasis is upon rapid Hebrew reading, writing student commentaries and classroom presentations. The course will reinforce a working model for doing exegesis of large passages.

Prerequisite: BBL-640 Old Testament Studies I: Exegesis in Hebrew Poetry

**BBL-612 A Biblical Theology of Knowing God's Will** 3

Knowing God's will is a subject of perennial interest for the community of God's people. This course investigates this concept through the entire Bible and clarifies God's will for daily life as a set of revealed values by which decisions should be made.

Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics

**BBL-620 Deuteronomy** 3

Analysis of the English text of Deuteronomy as a renewal of God's covenant with Israel.

Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics

**BBL-630 Wisdom Literature** 3

A study of the Old Testament wisdom literature (Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes, wisdom Psalms and the Song of Songs), with comparisons and contrasts with other ancient Near Eastern wisdom literature. Course emphasizes student papers, class presentations and interaction.

Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics

**BBL-632 Isaiah** 3

An inductive biblical and theological study of the major passages of Isaiah. The student develops an understanding of the prophet's historical message and its futuristic aspect. The result is a compilation of the major themes of the book and their importance to the redemptive program of God.

Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics

**BBL-633 Jeremiah** 3

The course begins with a structural study of the book, giving attention to textual elements which provide clues to the book's shape. Attention will then be given to expository examination of selected texts in the book. The approach includes lectures and student participation in the expository process.

Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics

**BBL-634 Exile and Restoration** 3

A study of Israel in exile and in restoration—both as a nation and as diaspora. Examination of Old Testament exilic and post-exilic books in both the prophets and the writings with emphasis upon the religious, political and cultural developments. Course emphasizes student papers, class presentations and interaction.

Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics

**BBL-635 Former Prophets** 3

A study of the former prophets with special consideration given to Old Testament historiography, hermeneutics of biblical narrative and theological message. Course emphasizes student papers, class presentations and interaction.

Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics

**BBL-637 Minor Prophets** 3

The course will examine the book of The Twelve from the perspective of its integration and how each Minor Prophet contributes to its unity. The shape and message of each book will be treated.

Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics

**BBL-640 Old Testament Studies I: Exegesis in Hebrew Poetry** 3

An introduction to the method of Old Testament exegesis by means of guided exegetical research in poetic texts selected from various parts of the Hebrew Bible. Exegesis of texts from various poetic genres serves to illustrate a methodology for working with other Old Testament texts. Introduction to textual criticism and emphasis upon developing a grammatical, historical and theological method lays a foundation for interpreting, applying and communicating Old Testament texts.

Prerequisite: BBL-516 Hebrew I and BBL-517 Hebrew II

**BBL-641 Old Testament Studies II:  
Pentateuch 3**

A study of the content, composition, canonical message and biblical theology of the first five books of the Old Testament, including exegesis of texts from various literary genres. Emphasis is placed upon the foundational role of covenant in the life of Israel.

Prerequisite: BBL-516 Hebrew I, BBL-517 Hebrew II, BBL-640 Old Testament Studies I: Exegesis in Hebrew Poetry

**BBL-642 Old Testament Studies III:  
Prophets and the Writings 3**

A study of the content, composition, canonical message and biblical theology of the Old Testament books of the former and latter prophets and the writings. Emphasis is placed upon the pre-exilic writing prophets as well as the exegesis of selected texts.

Prerequisite: BBL-516 Hebrew I, BBL-517 Hebrew II, BBL-640 Old Testament Studies I: Exegesis in Hebrew Poetry

**BBL-650 Gospel of John 3**  
Study and analysis of the purpose, structure, emphases and significance of the English text of the fourth Gospel.

Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics

**BBL-651 1 Corinthians 3**  
A detailed study of the text of 1 Corinthians with emphasis on the relevance of this epistle for the contemporary church.

Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics

**BBL-672 New Testament Studies I:  
Introduction to Exegesis 3**

An introduction to the theory of translation and practice of exegesis. Selections in the Pauline epistles are used to apply grammatical and hermeneutical principles of Greek exegesis. The life and writings of Paul are introduced.

Prerequisites: BBL-510 Greek I and BBL-511 Greek II

**BBL-677 New Testament Studies II:  
The Gospels 3**

An introduction to the study of the Gospels, emphasizing exegetical method. Students will become aware of the rudiments of historical, source, form, redaction and literary critical methods. They will also develop their own skills in the exegesis of Gospel texts with a view to biblical theology and the ministry of the word.

Prerequisites: BBL-510 Greek I, BBL-511 Greek II and BBL-672 New Testament Studies I: Introduction to Exegesis or permission of the instructor

**BBL-678 New Testament Studies III:  
The General Epistles 3**

An introduction to the study of the general Epistles (Hebrews-Revelation), emphasizing Greek exegesis and biblical theology. Students will consider the historical setting of these books and develop their exegetical skills by working with selected texts. Growth in doing biblical theology and expository ministry is also targeted.

Prerequisites: BBL-510 Greek I, BBL-511 Greek II and BBL-672 New Testament Studies I: Introduction to Exegesis or permission of the instructor

**BBL-700 The Relationship Between  
the Testaments 3**

An analysis of the many different approaches to the problem of how the two testaments interrelate or interface. Emphasis is on developing both lines of continuity and discontinuity between the Old and the New Testaments.

Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics

**BBL-710 Seminar in Messianic Hope 3**  
A study of the themes of the Old Testament which find their fulfillment in the Messiah, Jesus Christ. The course emphasizes proper hermeneutical methods in Old Testament literature, identifies Messianic themes, surveys Old Testament passages which emphasize these themes, traces the development of Messianic expectations in Judaism of the Intertestamental period and looks toward New Testament fulfillment in Jesus Christ.

**BBL-712 Seminar in OT Biblical Theology 3**  
A critical appraisal of recent studies dealing with Old Testament theology.

**BBL-742 Biblical Aramaic 3**

An inductive study of the Aramaic portions of Daniel and Ezra with exegesis of selected texts and introduction to extra-biblical Aramaic.

Prerequisite: One year of Hebrew

**BBL-762 The Parables of Jesus 3**  
Methods of interpreting Jesus' parables are surveyed and then an eclectic model drawing on the best insights of each is applied to each of the major narrative parables in the Gospels. Conclusions are drawn concerning the theology and significance of this portion of Jesus' teaching. This course is available both on campus and by distance education.

Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics



**BBL-770 Intermediate Greek Grammar 3**  
A more advanced study of Greek Grammar than Greek I and II with emphasis on learning grammatical labels and applying them to the Greek text.

Prerequisite: BBL-510 Greek I and BBL-511 Greek II, or equivalent

**BBL-772 Greek Exegesis of Ephesians 3**  
This course is an exegetical and theological study of the Greek text of the New Testament epistle to the Ephesians. The text will be translated and grammatically and structurally analyzed in relation to selected commentary and journal literature on the epistle.

Prerequisite: BBL-510 Greek I and BBL-511 Greek II

**BBL-781 Readings in Old Testament  
Theology 1-3**

A critical examination of recent important works in Old Testament biblical theology with emphasis upon their contributions to understanding the message of the Old Testament and to developing a methodology for doing Old Testament theology. Registration for this course requires advisor approval.

**BBL-782 Readings in New Testament  
Theology 1-3**

A study of the major New Testament theologies as they relate to major themes of the New Testament such as kingdom, God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the church, salvation and Christian ethics. Registration for this course requires advisor approval.

**BBL-783 Independent Study in Old  
Testament 1-3**

Individual research in a particular area under the direction of a member of the Old Testament faculty. Registration for this course requires advisor approval.

**BBL-784 Independent Study in New  
Testament 1-3**

Supervised independent study for advanced students in New Testament. Registration for this course requires advisor approval.

**BBL-789 Advanced Topics: Bible 3**

A formal class which addresses the interests of students and faculty. Courses may include current issues, biblical and theological areas and other subjects which call for special analysis.

**BBL-792 M.A. Thesis 3**

The student will write a 50-75 page thesis under the supervision of a faculty thesis advisor on a significant approved topic in the major field. The thesis format should be governed by A Manual for Writers of Papers, Theses and Dissertations (current edition) by Kate L. Turabian, along with any supplemental materials and/or instructions provided by the seminary. Registration for this course requires advisor approval. Each enrolled student will be charged an additional fee of \$90.00 for thesis review and binding.

Prerequisite: BBL-584 Thesis Readings: Bible

## MASTER OF THEOLOGY COURSES

Master of Theology courses are research-based, involving regular meetings with the professor for guidance and evaluation. The guided research and reading is particularized to the specific goals of each student.

**BBL-840 Language 4**  
Guided research in Biblical Hebrew, Aramaic, textual criticism and Semitic cognate languages. The student will increase proficiency in Hebrew grammar and syntax, learn the Aramaic language, increase skills in textual criticism and understand the place of Hebrew and Aramaic in the family of Semitic languages.

**BBL-841 History 4**  
Guided research in Old Testament history, culture and archaeology. The student will gain a comprehensive understanding of Old Testament history, culture and archaeology, and will be able to discuss the issues articulately.

**BBL-844 Biblical Theology 4**  
Guided research in Old Testament theologies. The student is expected to interact with contemporary Old Testament biblical theologies and formulate a personal Old Testament biblical theology outline.

**BBL-846 Old Testament Introduction 4**  
Guided research in Old Testament introductions. The student is expected to discuss articulately the major issues and problems in Old Testament introduction.

**BBL-848 Old Testament Exegesis 4**  
Guided translation and exegesis in selected texts. The student will improve exegetical skills, read widely in constructive approaches to biblical criticism, and will write an exegetical commentary on a selected text.

**BBL-870 Grammar and Translation 4**  
The student will be expected to have a working knowledge of Greek grammar and to have translated the entire Greek New Testament.

**BBL-872 New Testament Introduction and Historical Background 4**  
The student will be expected to know the basis, history and methodology of textual criticism. The student must have a general awareness of those significant historical developments from the Persian period through the Bar Kokhba's revolt which form the backdrop for the New Testament.

**BBL-874 Exegesis of the Gospels and Acts 4**  
The student will sight-read the Greek text and discuss the exegetical issues with the major professor. He/she will also prepare a list of major exegetical problems for each book.

**BBL-876 Exegesis of the Pauline Epistles 4**  
The student will sight-read the Greek text and discuss the exegetical issues with the major professor. He/she will also prepare a list of major exegetical problems for each book.

**BBL-877 Exegesis of the General Epistles and Revelation 4**  
The student will sight-read the Greek text and discuss the exegetical issues with the major professor. He/she will also prepare a list of major exegetical problems for each book.

**BBL-880 Enrichment 4**  
The student will select, with the guidance of the academic advisor, an enrichment module outside the program major.

**BBL-890 Th.M. Thesis 6**  
The student will write a 60-100 page thesis on a significant and approved topic in the major field. The thesis format should be governed by A Manual For Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations (current edition) by Kate Turabian, along with supplemental materials and/or instructions provided by the seminary. The thesis will be supervised by a thesis advisor and defended before a faculty committee. Each enrolled student will be charged an additional fee of \$115.00 for thesis review and binding.

## **HISTORICAL/SYSTEMATIC/ PHILOSOPHICAL/MORAL THEOLOGY**

Building on the foundation of exegesis and biblical theology on the one hand and the context of the proclamation of the Gospel to the whole world on the other, the courses in this department aim at integration and wholeness. This division serves the other divisions by reminding them of the total context of the Bible as developed by God's people in the history of the church and in contemporary cultures. This task is accomplished in historical, systematic, moral and philosophical theology.

### ***Historical Theology***

This department emphasizes the history of Christian thought rather than institutional history. The focus is upon the church struggling with the meaning of Scripture and defending itself against attack by means of an increasingly full and accurate statement of theological truth as it proclaims the Gospel in worship, prayer and witness. These courses address post-canonical Christian thought. The leading thinkers, documents, ideas and movements are examined in their historical context. Students gain an understanding of their Christian heritage and evaluate examples of theology in historical and cultural contexts.

### ***Systematic Theology***

Building upon exegetical theology, biblical theology and historical theology, systematic theology aims at a logical synthesis of the major themes of the Bible in the context and language of contemporary cultures. The systematic theology sequence confronts the student with theological methodology and the content and interrelationships of the individual doctrines. It is fundamental to the rest of the theological curriculum. Students without formal biblical courses should take BBL-502 Old Testament Biblical Theology and BBL-503 New Testament Biblical Theology.

Students who have completed upper level systematic theology in college may, with the approval of the departmental chairman, be permitted to move directly into the theology seminars.

### ***Moral and Philosophical Theology***

Moral Theology is a logical and coherent synthesis of the imperative statements of the Bible on the foundation of systematic theology. These courses aim to present a biblical alternative to legalism, antinomianism and natural theology.

Philosophy has a significant contribution to make to the Christian thinker. It tests and challenges confused and inconsistent theological thought, and it forces theology toward precision and consistency. It provides language to express theology. It drives theology toward the wholeness of a Christian worldview.

## **FACULTY**

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### **JAMES GRIER**

*Distinguished Professor of  
Philosophical & Systematic Theology*

### **MICHAEL WITTMER**

*Professor of Systematic and  
Historical Theology*

### **BYARD BENNETT**

*Associate Professor of  
Historical and Philosophical Theology*

### **JEREMY GRINNELL**

*Visiting Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology*

### **STAN GUNDRY**

*Adjunct Professor of Systematic and Historical Theology*

## **COURSES**

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### **THE-501 Program Introduction Seminar 2**

This course serves as an introduction to graduate theological education at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary. It prepares students for the rigors of graduate scholarship by honing the skills of graduate research, reading and writing. Embedded within the course are the administration of several entering student assessment instruments. This course is generally required for resident students within the first semester and must be completed by all students, with the exception of Master of Arts in Counseling students, within the first 15 credits of enrollment.

### **THE-515 Historical Theology I: The Early Church 3**

The church from the close of the New Testament canon through Augustine in the West and the council of Chalcedon in the East. This course is available both on campus and by distance education.

### **THE-516 Historical Theology II: The Medieval Church 3**

The medieval church, primarily in the West, from Augustine through the forerunners of the Reformation.

### **THE-517 Historical Theology III: The Reformation Church 3**

The reformation and post-reformation church from Martin Luther through the Puritans.

### **THE-518 Historical Theology IV: The Modern Church 3**

The modern church from the first Great Awakening to the present.

### **THE-525 The Theology of Martin Luther 3**

An examination of Luther's doctrinal distinctives. This course is only available by distance education.

**THE-540 Systematic Theology I:  
Invitation to Theology 3**

This course introduces and practices a metanarrative for doing theology. The biblical narratives and propositions are heard in the context of the story that begins with creation, is centered in Jesus' first coming and reaches its culmination in the new heavens and earth. The doctrines of the Scriptures and God are studied, and the foundation laid for THE-640 Systematic Theology II and THE-641 Systematic Theology III.

**THE-552 The Theology of Man and Sin 3**

A study of the doctrine of humanity and sin. Creation in God's image, the radical defacement of that image and resulting depravity are emphasized. This course is only available by distance education.

**THE-572 Christian Worldview 3**

An elaboration of the Christian perspective upon all of life and reality with emphasis on basic matters such as method, being, knowing and doing. This course is available both on campus and online.

**THE-576 Christian Ethics 3**

An examination of the basis and nature of Christian conduct. Analysis of ethical systems and related problems. This course is only available by distance education.

**THE-584 Thesis Readings: Theology 1-3**

An independent readings course in preparation for writing a master's thesis in a focused area of theological study. The student will read approximately 2,000 pages and structure a thesis proposal under the guidance of a thesis advisor and in accordance with seminary standards for form and style. Registration for this course requires advisor approval.

**THE-640 Systematic Theology II:  
Christian Worldview 3**

This course continues our metanarrative theology by examining the Christian story of creation, fall, redemption and consummation, with special attention given to the nature and task of humanity, the distortion of the world through sin and the redemptive work and person of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Prerequisite: THE-540 Systematic Theology I

**THE-641 Systematic Theology III:  
Kingdom of God 3**

This course will examine in detail the doctrine of salvation (soteriology), the church (ecclesiology), the basic elements of pastoral theology (internal and external call to the ministry, ordination, ministry of the word and sacraments, church discipline and pastoral spiritual formation) and the four last things (death, judgment, heaven and hell).

Prerequisites: THE-540 Systematic Theology I

**THE-653 The Doctrine of Salvation 3**

An exegetical, historical and systematic study of the salvation provided by the triune God. This course is only available by distance education.

**THE-673 Moral Issues in Christian Life  
and Ministry 3**

This course will help students apply the processes of critical moral reasoning to various problems commonly encountered in pastoral care, spiritual direction and Christian counseling.

Prerequisites: THE-540 Systematic Theology I and THE-640 Systematic Theology II.

**THE-710 Seminar in the History of  
Christian Thought 3**

An investigation and evaluation of the thought and influence of great theologians and theological movements. The following are offered regularly:

***Augustine***

A study of his life and teachings in the context of his historical, ecclesiastical, philosophical and theological environment. Focus on the Confessions, the City of God, or the Pelagian controversy.

Prerequisite: THE-515 Historical Theology I or THE-516 Historical Theology II.

***Barth***

A study of his life and teachings in the context of German liberalism, Kierkegaard and the world wars. Focus upon the contributions and dangers of either Volume I, II or IV of the Church Dogmatics.

***Calvin***

A study of his Institutes of the Christian Religion in the context of his commentaries, sermons and late medieval and reformation theology.

***Prayer and Spirituality in the Early Church***

This course will examine the development of spiritual disciplines (prayer, fasting, meditation on Scripture, corporate worship and right use of the sacraments) in the church from the New Testament to 600 A.D. Early Christian understandings of the psychology of temptation, habituation to evil, personal conversion and spiritual discernment will also be investigated and their relevance to the contemporary practice of spiritual direction will be discussed.

Prerequisite: THE-515 Historical Theology I or THE-516 Historical Theology II.

***The Puritans***

A study of the Puritan concepts of counseling and pastoral care with particular attention to the theologies and methodologies of Richard Baxter and John Owen.

***Theology of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries***

This course will examine selected themes in major Protestant theological writers of the 19th and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, discussing the writers' differing philosophical backgrounds and their enduring contributions to theological reflection in the service of the church. This course is offered on an occasional basis and by independent enrollment.

**THE-770 Apologetics 3**

An investigation of the methodology to be used in the defense of Christianity. Attention will be given to various alternative methods as well as crucial aspects of the issue.

**THE-781 Readings in Historical Theology 1-3**

Guided reading and research in historical theology for the student with adequate background and superior abilities. Registration for this course requires advisor approval.

**THE-782 Readings in Systematic Theology 1-3**

Guided reading and research in systematic theology for the student with an adequate background and superior abilities. Registration for this course requires advisor approval.

**THE-783 Readings in Moral and Philosophical Theology 1-3**

Guided reading and research in moral and philosophical theology for the student with adequate background and superior abilities. Registration for this course requires advisor approval.

**THE-784 Independent Study: Historical Theology 1-3**

Individualized research and writing for the superior student, building upon a concentration in historical theology. Registration for this course requires advisor approval.

**THE-785 Independent Study: Systematic Theology 1-3**

Individualized research and writing for the superior student, building upon a concentration in systematic theology. Registration for this course requires advisor approval.

**THE-786 Independent Study: Moral and Philosophical Theology 1-3**

Individualized research and writing for the superior student, building upon a concentration in moral and philosophical theology. Registration for this course requires advisor approval.

**THE-788 Advanced Topics: Theology 3**

A formal class that addresses the interests of students and faculty. Courses may include current issues, biblical and theological areas, and other subjects which call for special analysis.

**THE-792 M.A. Thesis 3**

The student will write a 50-75 page thesis under the supervision of a faculty thesis advisor on a significant approved topic in the major field. The thesis format should be governed by *A Manual for Writers of Papers, Theses and Dissertations* (current edition) by Kate L. Turabian, along with any supplemental materials and/or instructions provided by the seminary. Registration for this course requires advisor approval. Each enrolled student will be charged an additional fee of \$90.00 for thesis review and binding.

Prerequisite: THE-584 Thesis Readings: Theology.

## **MASTER OF THEOLOGY COURSES**

Master of Theology courses are research-based, involving regular meetings with a professor for guidance and evaluation. The guided research and reading is particularized to the specific goals of each student in the program.

### **THE-810 Philosophy and Methodology of History 4**

This course contains two components. First, it studies the major philosophies of history and of church history with a view to the student's development of a philosophy of historical theology. Second, it introduces the methods and tools of historical-theological research.

### **THE-811 The Early Church 4**

Broad reading of primary and secondary literature from the close of the apostolic age to the Council of Chalcedon.

### **THE-812 The Medieval Church 4**

Broad reading of primary and secondary literature from the Council of Chalcedon to the Fifth Lateran Council.

### **THE-813 The Reformation Church 4**

Broad reading of primary and secondary literature from Martin Luther through the Puritans.

### **THE-814 The Modern Church 4**

Broad reading of primary and secondary literature from the Enlightenment and the 18<sup>th</sup> century awakening to the present.

### **THE-840 Theological Prolegomena 4**

A study of the nature, necessity and method of systematic theology and its relationship to encyclopedia and the ministry of the church. This is set in the context of a study of theological language, the problem of evil and the relationship of theology to the sciences, tradition, mysticism, religion and verification.

### **THE-841 Theological Systems: Historical 4**

The student will study one of the great theologians with a view to understanding historical setting, assumptions, center, structure, interrelationships and influence.

### **THE-843 Theological Locus 4**

The student will develop one of the eight theological loci to demonstrate ability to do systematic theology. This will include the place of that locus in systematic theology (the method, the turning points and the structure).

### **THE-844 Special Studies in Systematic Theology 4**

Intense study of a theological theme based upon the student's interest and/or need.

### **THE-845 Theological System: Personal 4**

The student will produce the outline of his/her theological system with attention to assumptions, center, order and inter-relationships.

### **THE-880 Enrichment 4**

The student will select, with the guidance and approval of the academic advisor, an enrichment module outside the program major.

### **THE-890 Th.M. Thesis 6**

The student will write a 60-100 page thesis on a significant and approved topic in the major field. The thesis format should be governed by A Manual For Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations (current edition) by Kate Turabian, along with supplemental materials and/or instructions provided by the seminary. The thesis will be supervised by a thesis advisor and defended before a faculty committee. Each enrolled student will be charged an additional fee of \$115.00 for thesis review and binding.

## MINISTRY THEOLOGY

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The courses in Ministry Theology enable the student to integrate biblical and theological studies into a philosophy of ministry for Christian service in the multifaceted cultures of our contemporary world. Ministry Theology encourages the student to bring all other biblical and theological study to bear on doing theology through the proclamation of Scripture, the spiritual formation of believers and the extension of biblical witness to the cultures of our world.

### *Pastoral Ministries*

The Pastoral Ministries concentration is intended to develop the skills of preaching, governance and counseling. Organizational Leadership (MIN-510) is basic to the concentration with added skills developed in preaching, administration and relational skills. Electives in this concentration enable the student to pursue breadth for ministry.

### *Educational Ministries*

The Educational Ministries curriculum is intended to develop the basic competencies necessary to engage effectively in the church's educational mission of making disciples. Course work is designed to enable the student to develop a distinctly Christian philosophy of education. Attention is given in each course to the understanding and application of contemporary educational theory in light of sound biblical exegesis and theology. A special effort is made to develop the competencies necessary to enact educational ministry in a manner relevant to given cultural and social contexts.

### *Intercultural Ministries*

Studies in missiology focus on the propagation of the church's mission through communication of biblical truth with cultural understanding. A study of principles of church planting and church multiplication is necessary to an understanding of intercultural ministry. An analysis of other-culture living and ministry is imperative for field preparation. The study of intercultural development of church leaders is an integral part of establishing biblically sound churches

## FACULTY

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### **ROBERT D. LEHMAN**

*Professor of Counseling*

### **CATHERINE MUELLER-BELL**

*Assistant Professor of Counseling*

### **DAVID LIVERMORE**

*Associate Professor of Intercultural Ministries*

### **NATE CLASON**

*Adjunct Professor of Educational Ministries*

### **STEVE ARGUE**

*Adjunct Professor of Youth Ministries*

### **PHILIP BUSTRUM**

*Adjunct Professor of Educational Ministries*

### **DON DENYES**

*Adjunct Professor of Pastoral Ministries*

### **GARY A. HEIM**

*Adjunct Professor of Educational Ministries*

### **DOUGLAS FAGERSTROM**

*Adjunct Professor of Church Planting*

### **LISA HEIM**

*Adjunct Professor of Educational Ministries*

### **THOMAS HUTCHISON**

*Adjunct Professor of Educational Ministries*

### **BRENDA KING**

*Adjunct Professor of Social Science Research*

### **PETER G. OSBORN**

*Adjunct Professor of Educational Ministries*

### **WILLIAM J. RUDD**

*Adjunct Professor of Pastoral Ministries*

### **REGGIE SMITH**

*Adjunct Professor of Intercultural Ministries*

### **RIK STEVENSON**

*Adjunct Professor of Pastoral Ministries*

### **DAVID W. STONER**

*Adjunct Professor of Intercultural Ministries*

## COURSES

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### **MIN-500 Christian Spiritual Formation 3**

An investigation into the meaning of biblical Christianity and its relationship to faith and practice within contemporary cultural contexts. Special attention is given to the corporate dimensions of spirituality and spiritual formation. Each enrolled student will be charged an additional \$150.00 for specialized course materials. The fee will be automatically charged to the student's account upon registration. This course is available both on campus and by distance education, and must be completed within the first 15 credits of enrollment.

**MIN-510 Organizational Leadership 3**  
This course sets a foundational framework of knowledge and critical thinking skills needed to develop intercultural and international organizational leaders. Students examine theories, issues and skills of leadership, motivation, decision-making and communication from a transcultural biblical values perspective using case studies and texts. Class exercises apply skills in specific problem-solving situations that help identify requisite thinking processes and abilities necessary for transitioning ministries and organizations from leader to leader consistent with cultural norms and expectations.

**MIN-525 Introduction to Chaplaincy 3**  
A foundational study of the chaplain ministry. This course is available on an individual basis and by special arrangement.

**MIN-526 Basic Clinical Pastoral Education 3**  
One unit of basic clinical pastoral education accredited by the Association of Clinical Pastoral Education may be credited for three hours of field ministry or three hours in the pastoral concentration. Students wishing to take this unit must be approved by one of the area training centers. Information concerning application is available in the office.

**MIN-529 Administration and Care of the Church 3**  
This course is designed to develop both knowledge and skill in administration and pastoral care of persons. Administrative principles are developed and applied to ministry. A second focus develops the pastor's ability to care for people in both individual and group settings. This course is available only by distance education.

**MIN-530 Pastoral Competencies 3**  
This course provides for the pastoral specialization an introduction to the broad range of skills that a pastor must develop in the everyday work of the ministry. This includes the administration of ordinances, conducting weddings and funerals, caring for the sick and grief stricken, ministerial ethics, church service development, a preaching calendar, knowledge of the annual liturgical calendar and church life, financial integrity in one's personal life, church staff and officers development, cultivating life habits of professional development and song leading capacity, along with numerous timeless items that contribute to the science and art of pastoral ministry. The student will have contact with regional pastors in the acquisition of these skills and attitudes.

**MIN-534 Evangelism/Discipleship Ministries 3**  
This class is designed to develop the ministry leader's knowledge and skill in evangelism and discipleship ministries. The course will examine personal as well as corporate models of evangelism and discipleship.

**MIN-537 Church Planting I 3**  
This course provides an introduction to church planting and development. Particular attention is given to the relevant issues, required competencies and proven strategies of successful church planting and development. In addition to presentations delivered by the professor and select guest speakers, students will engage in personal testing, small group interaction and student presentations.

**MIN-538 Church Planting II 3**  
Building upon MIN-537 Church Planting the course provides an advanced understanding of the issues, competencies and strategies relevant to church planting and development. The course is designed to engage students in the material through lectures, personal testing, small group interaction and student presentations.

Prerequisite: MIN-537 Church Planting I

**MIN-543 The Educational Mission of the Church 3**  
Serves as an introduction to understanding the nature and mission of educational ministry in the church. Biblical, theological, historical and developmental foundations allow students to form a coherent strategy for nurturing the whole faith community.

**MIN-545 Teaching & Learning for Christian Nurture 3**  
A consideration of the various factors which influence the teaching and learning process. Students will engage in a critical analysis of how faith is formed through the teaching ministry of the church. This highly interactive skills course allows opportunity to practice various methods of creatively teaching the Bible.

**MIN-548 Teaching Ministry of Jesus 3**  
Adherents of various world religions agree that Jesus was a master teacher. An examination of first-century Jewish education may assist in gaining a clearer perspective on Jesus' own education and his strategy for advancing his mission. Careful attention will be given to the message, motives, motifs and methods of Jesus' teaching ministry with clues for Christian teaching today.



**MIN-550 History & Philosophy of Educational Ministries 3**

An inquiry into how the church has attempted to educate its members in faith over the last two millennia. A paradigm for analyzing other educational philosophies as well as constructing one's own educational philosophy is developed. This course is available both on campus and by distance education.

**MIN-553 Sociology of Adolescence 3**

The course is designed to foster an intellectual understanding of the evolution of adolescence in Western society and current influences that shape its constitution. Special attention will also be given to application of this understanding toward effective ministry with youth.

**MIN-554 Theology of Women in Ministry 3**

This course provides an in-depth opportunity for critical reflection about the roles of women in the church, home and community informed and governed by the text of scripture. Substantial attention is given to examining and defining issues related to gender, understanding the impact of culture on identity development and seeking what God intends for women in ministry. Further emphasis is placed on understanding a historical context that reflects the experiences of women throughout the ages beginning with studying the women of the Bible. This course is available in-residence and by distance education.

**MIN-557 Introduction to Women's Studies 3**

This course provides an introduction to the interdisciplinary field of women's studies from a Christian Worldview. A historical and global perspective will be emphasized that is based on a breadth of theoretical constructs. Students will also have an opportunity to learn and critically examine how culture is a part of influencing identity formation in women. Within this course the contributions of women throughout history will be studied and analyzed. This course is available only on-line.

**MIN-560 Global Impact: Biblical Theology of Mission 3**

This course is designed to help students develop a biblical theology of mission that shapes how the church intersects with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century world. Students will consider the essence of mission Dei (the sending of God) and of mission ecclesia (the sending of the church) as rooted in the biblical narrative. Simultaneously, students will consider global trends and the implications of those trends for life and ministry. Students will examine the validity of traditional and emerging models for global missions in light of the above.

**MIN-563 History and Philosophy of Christian Missions 3**

A study of the missions movement during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries. This course is only available by distance education.

**MIN-565 Perspectives on the World Christian Movement 3**

A comprehensive presentation of the tasks of world mission and evangelization through a development of the biblical, historical, strategic and cultural perspectives of Christianity in the world. The lectures are delivered by a variety of individuals with reputation in academic and ministry settings. This course is offered at Calvary Church in Grand Rapids and available to students through a cooperative agreement.

**MIN-567 Missional Church: Church and Culture — Past and Present 3**

This course is designed to provide a historical overview of the church's engagement with culture including and leading up to the recent cultural shift from modernity to postmodernity. As well as a historical perspective on the church and culture, the centerpiece of the course is a close-up look at the emerging cultural shifts and their influence on how the church should live out her mission.

**MIN-584 Thesis Readings: Ministry 1-3**

An independent readings course in preparation for writing a master's thesis in a focused area of ministry. The student will read approximately 2,000 pages and structure a thesis proposal under the guidance of a thesis advisor and in accordance with seminary standards for form and style. Registration for this course requires advisor approval.

**MIN-625 Theology and Practice of Christian Worship 3**

This course will examine the biblical basis for Christian worship and the major patterns of corporate worship and related devotional practices (public prayer and fasting) found in the early church, medieval period, Protestant Reformation, Puritan tradition, evangelical revival and contemporary Pentecostal and charismatic movements. Through critical reflection upon this historical material, students will develop an account of Christian worship, its structures and leadership which is relevant to their own church context and integrates theological and practical components.

**MIN-626 Interpersonal Communication & Conflict Management in Churches & Christian Organizations** 3

An examination of the process of interpersonal communication and conflict management in human relationships within the body of Christ. Attention will be given to communication models, self-concept, non-verbal messages, stress and other strategies that will assist the Christian leader in developing interpersonal communication skills and the productive use of conflict. This course is only available by distance education.

**MIN-630 Small Group Ministries** 3

The design of this class is to give the pastor an understanding of group dynamics, to develop small groups in church ministry and to develop leadership skills in the congregation.

**MIN-636 Homiletics I** 3

An introduction to homiletics with attention to philosophy and purpose. Emphasis is given to study of available methods for gathering the biblical and non-biblical materials needed for sermons. The course includes a laboratory that allows basic instruction and evaluation regarding the student's communication style in the homiletical situation.

Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics.

**MIN-637 Homiletics II** 3

A concentrated study of the organization of sermonic material with emphasis given to its application in expository preaching. Various types of expository sermons are examined and attention is given to responsibilities related to the pulpit ministry. The laboratory allows instruction in and application of a variety of delivery techniques.

Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics and MIN-636 Homiletics I.

**MIN-640 Educational Ministries for Children** 3

An investigation of the developmental aspects of children and societal influences on childhood. Special attention will be given to the church's and parent's task in nurturing Christian faith for this important age group. Students will also gain a foundational overview of leading and programming effective ministries for children.

**MIN-641 Theology of Youth Ministry** 3

Students will seek to integrate a theologically-informed perspective with sound principles to create a philosophy of youth ministry. Special attention will be given to exploring how adolescent faith is nurtured.

**MIN-643 Educational Ministries for Adults** 3

The course engages students in readings, critical reflection, on-line discussion, and reflective and critical writing in areas foundational to adult religious education. Consideration is given to the nature of knowing, adult learning theory, learner-centered teaching, diverse learning styles, and methods of instruction that facilitate adult learning. The course culminates for the student in the development of a written philosophy of adult religious education.

**MIN-644 Curriculum Planning** 3

Analysis of the concept of curriculum planning with special focus on the local church context. The various curriculum models that have shaped contemporary thought are investigated with a view towards their suitability to Christian Education. A paradigm for producing a curriculum design at any level will be developed and the student will be expected to draft a curriculum design for a particular ministry application.

**MIN-557 Introduction to Women's Studies** 3

This course provides an understanding of the essential aspects of developing various ministries for women within the church and culture. An emphasis is placed on learning the process of building a ministry that is geared towards the specific needs of the women in the community being served. Administrative and leadership skills are addressed from a systems perspective. The student will learn how to assimilate, integrate and apply the organizational skills necessary for cultivating an innovative and successful ministry.

**MIN-660 Cultural Intelligence: Multicultural Understanding** 3

This course is designed to give leaders an introductory grasp of cultural intelligence, a person's ability to adapt successfully to different national, organizational, and professional cultures. Literature from the fields of anthropology and sociology are used as well as studying cultural engagement in light of the biblical narrative, as a way to develop missional communities of incarnational ministry.

**MIN-665 Introduction to Muslim Evangelism** 3

This course presents the tenets of the Muslim religion and discusses the points of contact with the Muslim for the gospel. This course is only available by distance education.

**MIN-667 Urban and Local Development:  
Exegeting Our Own Communities 3**

This course studies the brokenness in our own neighborhoods and explores practical ways for the church to embody the gospel in response to social inequities like racism, inequitable distribution of wealth, illiteracy, abuse, etc. It considers the literature of urban transformation and the use of measures like casework, education, microlending/microenterprise development, etc.

**MIN-670 World Religions 3**

The first portion of the course includes an introduction to the history, significance, beliefs and practices of Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam and Judaism. Students develop an understanding and appreciation of the integration of other faith systems from an evangelical perspective. The latter portion of the course examines representative occult-based religious expression with special attention focused on the New Age Movement. This course is only available by distance education.

**MIN-685 MR Ministry Residency I 2**

The first course of four designed for the MR Ministry Residency. The student will get acquainted with their specific ministry culture. Through the student's ministry, interaction with their mentor, contact with other MR residents, and their own personal reflection, the student will lay a foundation for their journey in a ministry context while gaining feedback that will help them in preparation for ministry. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to articulate goals for personal growth and ministry competency; track and evaluate their time management; establish the discipline of journaling and reflection; apply regular feedback and guidance given from their mentor; and be relationally connected with their ministry context as they invest time and relational energy, establishing relationships and rapport.

Prerequisite: Approval from the MR Executive Director.

**MIN-686 MR Ministry Residency II 2**

The second course of four designed for the MR Ministry Residency. This course builds upon the competency goals defined in MIN 686 and begins to explore ministry topics that pertain to small group dynamics, working with elders/boards, pastoral duties (leading communion), strategic planning and staff meetings. Upon successful completion of this course students will gain experience leading/facilitating a small group; become familiar with leading communion/a communion service; establish a ministry initiative and strategic plan for implementation; grow in interacting with staff members; and gain experience attending board/elders meetings.

Prerequisites: MIN-685 Ministry Residency I. If MR site for MIN-686 is different than your previous site for MIN-685, you will need approval from the MR Executive Director.

**MIN-694 Advanced Topics: Ministry 3**

A formal class which addresses the interests of students and faculty. Courses may include current issues related to ministry practice and other subjects which call for special analysis.

**MIN-711 Program Completion Seminar 1**

This course serves to aid students in the transition from student life in the seminary to practice in vocational ministry. Particular focus is given to ministerial identity formation, resume development, ministry search process and resources, and ordination and licensure. Embedded within the course are the administration of several exiting student assessments. The course is required for most resident degree programs during the last semester of enrollment.

**MIN-720 Advanced Clinical  
Pastoral Education 3-9**

Up to nine hours of elective credit may be given for any of these three units. No more than a total of 12 hours will be given for basic and advanced units including hours of field ministry. Students wishing to take advanced units must have completed the basic unit and must be approved by one of the area training centers. Information concerning application is available in the office.

**MIN-781 MR Ministry Residency III 2**

The third course of four designed for the MR Ministry Residency. This course builds upon the competency goals of the previous two courses and attempts to extend ministry experience into areas of classroom teaching, board/elders meetings, pastoral duties (weddings), implementing a ministry initiative, leadership and pastoral counseling. Upon successful completion of this semester of residency, students will become familiar with preparing for and officiating a wedding; implementing a ministry initiative and strategic plan; learn to recruit, shepherd, and lead a team of volunteers serving their ministry initiative, and navigate pastoral counseling concepts and strategies.

Prerequisites: MIN-685 and MIN-686. If MR site for MIN-781 is different than your previous site for MIN-686, you will need approval from the MR Executive Director.

**MIN-782 MR Ministry Residency IV 2**

The fourth course of four designed for the MR Ministry Residency. This course builds upon the competency goals of the MIN-781 and brings completion to the student's residency experience. The student's final semester as a MR Resident will focus in areas of personal solitude (through a one-day retreat), preaching, pastoral duties (funerals, dedications/baptisms), assessing and leading a developed ministry initiative, leadership development, "on call" counseling and referrals, gift assessment and strength finder, and summary evaluation of one's calling and next steps beyond formal ministry training. Upon successful completion of this course, the student will gain experience through preaching opportunities and receive feedback; prepare for and, if the occasion arises, lead a funeral service; prepare for and lead a baptism/dedication service; evaluate their ministry initiative and strategic plan and determine it's next steps; evaluate and assess their spiritual gifts and leadership strengths; and intentionally schedule, plan and implement a personal, one-day retreat.

Prerequisites: MIN-685, MIN-686, and MIN-781. If MR site for MIN-782 is different than your previous site for MIN-781, you will need approval from the MR Executive Director.

**MIN-785 Readings in Pastoral Ministries 1-3**

An in-depth pursuit of personal interest in homiletics or pastoral areas. Study of selected texts, reading of related books and the presentation of papers are included. Registration for this course requires advisor approval.

**MIN-786 Readings in Educational Ministries 1-3**

An in-depth pursuit of personal Christian education interest through the reading of educational journals, periodicals and books. Registration for this course requires advisor approval.

**MIN-787 Readings in Intercultural Studies 1-3**

A concentration on historical, biblical and theological bases of missiology together with readings in the student's anticipated host culture. Registration for this course requires advisor approval.

**MIN-788 Readings in Chaplaincy Ministries 1-3**

An in-depth pursuit of specialized interest in the chaplaincy ministry through the reading of journals, periodicals and books. Registration for this course requires advisor approval.

**MIN-792 Independent Study: Pastoral Ministries 1-3**

Supervised independent study for advanced students in Pastoral Ministries. Registration for this course requires advisor approval.

**MIN-793 Independent Study: Educational Ministries 1-3**

Supervised independent study for advanced students in Educational Ministries. Registration for this course requires advisor approval.

**MIN-794 Independent Study: Intercultural Ministries 1-3**

Supervised independent study for advanced students in Intercultural Ministries. Registration for this course requires advisor approval.

**MIN-795 Independent Study: Chaplaincy 1-3**

Supervised independent study for advanced students in the Chaplaincy ministry. Registration for this course requires advisor approval.

**MIN-797 M.A. Thesis 3**

The student will write a 50-75 page thesis under the supervision of a faculty thesis advisor on a significant approved topic in the major field. The thesis format should be governed by A Manual for Writers of Papers, Theses, and Dissertations (current edition) by Kate L. Turabian, along with supplemental materials and/or instructions provided by the seminary. Registration for this course requires advisor approval. Each enrolled student will be charged an additional fee of \$90.00 for thesis review and binding.

Prerequisite: MIN-584 Thesis Readings: Ministry.

**TESOL Program Option**

The Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) program of Cornerstone University is designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills to teach English in local and international settings. The emphasis of courses in the TESOL program is on the practical aspects of teaching and ministry opportunities at home and abroad. Most courses in the program are offered on-line, with module courses offered on campus each summer. Courses from the TESOL program can be included within the Master of Arts in Intercultural Ministries, the Master of Divinity, or the Master of Arts in Ministry Leadership degree program.

## COUNSELING

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Counseling addresses the need for persons to be competent to counsel in the context of the church's ministry to the community of the redeemed as well as to the unbelieving community. Counseling is a set of skills acquired through knowledge and practice. Competency in the use of these skills enables the practitioner to bring the content of biblical theology to the counseling situation. Persons competent to counsel in the context of church ministry should develop proficiency in doing theology which provides the content that the skill of counseling enacts in its ministry. The goal of this ministry concentration is to enact authentic Christian truth for the spiritual formation of the people of God.

## FACULTY

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### ROBERT LEHMAN

*Professor of Counseling*

### CATHERINE MUELLER-BELL

*Assistant Professor of Counseling*

### LINDA HAVEMAN

*Adjunct Professor of Counseling*

### BRENDA KING

*Adjunct Professor of Social Science Research*

### F. SCOTT REYBURN

*Adjunct Professor of Counseling*

## COURSES

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### COU-500 Counseling Philosophy 3

The course aids the student in developing an integrated and comprehensive philosophy of counseling informed by a Christian Worldview. Personal beliefs that impact the delivery of counseling services are identified and critiqued. Discussions will include the roles of the counselor and client.

### COU-501 Counseling Theories 3

This course provides a survey of various theoretical approaches to counseling. Students engage in research and offer a class presentation of a significant counseling theorist. Through study and interaction with the diverse theoretical models, students are given opportunity to evaluate the models and refine their personal counseling philosophy.

### COU-502 Counseling Ethics and Issues 3

The course is a study of the legal requirements and ethical codes for the professional counselor. Discussions include problems commonly encountered within the counseling profession. Consideration is given to the challenges associated with the set-up and supervision of counseling practices and programs. This course also provides foundations for graduate level research and writing in the social sciences and theological disciplines, and it must be taken within the first 15 credits of enrollment in the Master of Arts in Counseling.

### COU-510 Consulting 3

An introduction to theories and skills of working with clients during counseling sessions. Opportunities are provided for the development of helping skills through case studies and supervised practice. Emphasis is on students learning consultation skills to manage counseling session dynamics.

### COU-520 Child and Adolescent Counseling 3

This course is designed to provide an understanding of the unique developmental issues of the child and adolescent years. Included are strategies necessary for a successful counseling ministry with these important groups.

### COU-521 Marriage and Family Counseling 3

The course is focused on issues currently impacting marriage and family, including divorce and single parent situations. Consideration will be given to the subject matter from a theological, sociological, and psychological perspective. Students will perform basic research in this important area, and they will participate in learning activities that foster skill development and strategy formation.

### COU-525 Multicultural Counseling 3

This course will examine substantive and theoretical constructs concerning the inherently complex dynamics involved in counseling people from diverse cultural contexts. An emphasis will be placed on expanding awareness about diverse cultures and personal bias in the effort to enhance cultural sensitivity and diffuse potential barriers in the counseling relationship and process. Current research about cultural specific issues will be addressed including race, ethnicity, socioeconomic class, gender, age, marital status, sexual orientation and disability.

**COU-532 Counseling Women Through the Life Cycle** 3

This course is designed to help students learn the concepts and skills necessary to counsel women of all ages effectively. Counseling philosophy, theory and ethical standards are studied. The content includes a developmental framework exploring the various dimensions of a woman involving her cognitive, emotional, physical and spiritual health. Students will learn to be equipped to intervene with issues related to life adjustment and crisis situations.

**COU-584 Thesis Readings: Counseling** 3

The course is a guided readings and research course and serves as the foundation for writing a literature based master's thesis in the discipline of counseling. Under the guidance of a thesis advisor, the student will identify and justify a topic for study within the discipline, read approximately 2,000 pages related to the topic, and outline and draft a thesis proposal. The proposal must conform to the American Psychological Association (APA) format and must be approved by the thesis adviser to complete the course and before the student can proceed into COU-792. Registration for the course requires adviser approval and submission of the "special enrollments" form.

**COU-601 Testing Procedures** 3

An introduction to group and individual psychometric instruments. Commonly used personality tests are reviewed with suggested applications for counseling purposes. Principles of test assessment are highlighted.

**COU-610 Counseling Techniques** 3

An exploration of various methods useful during the counseling process. Included is an introduction to and evaluation of counseling approaches, techniques of rapport-building, problem assessment and diagnosis, and treatment plans.

**COU-611 Career Development** 3

This course seeks to prepare the counselor to facilitate client employment searches and client career development. Emphasis is given to understanding of and ministry to the unemployed and underemployed, and their families. Occupational and educational informative resources are included. Each enrolled student will be charged an additional fee of \$50 for specialized course materials. The fee will be automatically charged to the student's account upon registration.

**COU-612 Group Counseling Techniques** 3

This course will focus on techniques of group counseling. A variety of group types and styles will be reviewed. Applications of the material are designed for use in a variety of group counseling settings. Group leadership skills will also be emphasized.

**COU-700 Research Methods** 3

This course is a presentation of the basic research designs used by counselors. This course emphasizes the use of current studies and journals with particular emphasis upon critiquing journal articles.

**COU-780 Field Ministry: Counseling** 3-6

This supervised field education in counseling is intended to develop the student's competencies through ministry involvement in a local church or parachurch setting. The field ministry is coordinated under the direction of the Counseling Program Director. The student may fulfill this requirement during a given semester, over the summer months or through a combination of semesters. Registration for this course requires approval of the advisor and counseling program director.

**COU-782 Practicum: Counseling** 3

A supervised field ministry experience for students pursuing counseling careers. This course provides, on a limited basis, some of the activities that licensed professional counselors would be expected to perform. Opportunities in individual and group counseling, along with supportive ministries are included.

Prerequisites: COU-500, COU-501, COU-502, COU-510, and COU-610. Registration for this course requires advisor approval and the submission of the GRTS special enrollments form with attached proof of student liability insurance and signed code of professional ethics.

**COU-784 Internship I: Counseling** 3

An extended supervised "field ministry" experience that allows the counseling student opportunities to practice all activities that a licensed professional counselor performs.

Prerequisites: COU-500, COU-501, COU-502, COU-510, COU-610, COU-782. Registration for this course requires advisor approval and the submission of the GRTS special enrollments form with attached proof of student liability insurance and signed code of professional ethics.

**COU-785 Internship II: Counseling** 3

An extended supervised "field ministry" experience that allows the counseling student opportunities to practice all activities that a licensed professional counselor performs.

Prerequisites: COU-500, COU-501, COU-502, COU-510, COU-610, COU-782, prior completion or simultaneous enrollment in COU-784. Registration for this course requires advisor approval and the submission of the GRTS special enrollments form with attached proof of student liability insurance and signed code of professional ethics.

**COU-789 Advanced Topics: Counseling** 3

A formal class which addresses the interests of students and faculty. Courses may include current issues in counseling and other subjects which call for special analysis.

**COU-790 Readings in Counseling 1-3**

An in-depth pursuit of personal interest in counseling. Study of selected texts, reading of related books and the presentation of papers are included. Registration for this course requires advisor approval.

**COU-791 Independent Study: Counseling 1-3**

Supervised independent study for advanced students in counseling. Registration for this course requires advisor approval.

**COU-792 M.A. Thesis: Counseling 6**

Under the supervision of a thesis adviser, the student will write a 60-80 page literature-based thesis on an approved topic significant to the discipline and practice of counseling. The thesis should conform to the American Psychological Association (APA) format and must be approved by the thesis adviser and second reader for course completion. Registration for this course requires adviser approval and submission of the "special enrollments" form. Each enrolled student will be charged an additional fee of \$90.00 for thesis review and binding.

Prerequisite: COU-584 Thesis Readings: Counseling.

# COURSES OFFERED ONLINE & BY DISTANCE EDUCATION

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A wide range of courses are available to students through online and distance education delivery. These courses are generally applicable to the various degree programs at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary. While the availability of specific courses vary, online and distance education courses are generally offered both Fall and Spring semesters, with some online courses available during summer semester. In compliance with the accrediting standards of The Association of Theological Schools (ATS), students are limited to five courses completed online and/or by distance education within their respective degree program. All of the online courses are created and offered by faculty of the seminary and delivered through the Odyssey learning environment (Blackboard). The distance education courses are largely collaborative creations of the Institute of Theological Studies (ITS), though offered and graded by individual faculty members of GRTS. A few of the distance education courses were developed by GRTS faculty members. The distance education courses are purchased at a package price and generally include lectures on CD, textbooks, a course syllabus and other supplemental materials.

| Course #                         | Course Title                                     | Cr. | Grader       | Lecturer       |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----|--------------|----------------|
| <b>BIBLE</b>                     |                                                  |     |              |                |
| BBL-501                          | Biblical Hermeneutics (Online)                   | 3   | Meadors      | Meadors        |
| BBL-502                          | O.T. Biblical Theology (Online)                  | 3   | Kennedy      | Kennedy        |
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| <b>THEOLOGY</b>                  |                                                  |     |              |                |
| THE-515                          | Historical Theology I: The Ancient Church (ITS)  | 3   | Wittmer      | Gamble         |
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| THE-552                          | The Doctrine of Man and Sin (ITS)                | 3   | Wittmer      | Nicole         |
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# INDEX

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|                                                      |        |                                                         |    |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Academic and Institutional Fees . . . . .            | 61     | Cornerstone University . . . . .                        | 8  |
| Academic Calendar . . . . .                          | 14, 46 | Counseling Award . . . . .                              | 53 |
| Academic Dean's Award . . . . .                      | 52     | Counseling Course Descriptions . . . . .                | 89 |
| Academic Information Programs and Policies . . . . . | 15     | Counseling Services . . . . .                           | 67 |
| Academic Integrity . . . . .                         | 47     | Course Descriptions . . . . .                           | 70 |
| Academic Programs . . . . .                          | 21     | Course Waiver . . . . .                                 | 51 |
| Academic Policies . . . . .                          | 46     | Curricular Priorities . . . . .                         | 10 |
| Academic Tutoring . . . . .                          | 48     | Dallas Thompson Scholarship . . . . .                   | 64 |
| Accreditation and Academic Standing . . . . .        | 12     | David and Coila Kennedy Scholarship . . . . .           | 64 |
| Adjunct Faculty . . . . .                            | 93     | David Eifert Scholarship . . . . .                      | 63 |
| Admission and Registration Procedures . . . . .      | 55     | Distance Education . . . . .                            | 15 |
| Admissions Requirements . . . . .                    | 42     | Distance Education Courses . . . . .                    | 90 |
| Admissions Staff . . . . .                           | 55     | Drop/Add . . . . .                                      | 51 |
| Admissions Status . . . . .                          | 56     | Educational Ministries Award . . . . .                  | 53 |
| Advanced Standing . . . . .                          | 50     | Emeritus Faculty . . . . .                              | 95 |
| Application Process . . . . .                        | 55     | Employment Services . . . . .                           | 67 |
| Attendance . . . . .                                 | 50     | Enrichment Opportunities . . . . .                      | 65 |
| Audit Policy . . . . .                               | 51     | Enrollment Options . . . . .                            | 15 |
| Baker Book House Award . . . . .                     | 52     | Esther Gilbertson Scholarship . . . . .                 | 61 |
| Board of Trustees . . . . .                          | 93     | Evening Courses . . . . .                               | 15 |
| Bol Loan Fund . . . . .                              | 65     | Exegetical/Biblical Theology                            |    |
| Campus Safety . . . . .                              | 66     | Course Descriptions . . . . .                           | 69 |
| Campus Visit . . . . .                               | 55     | Faculty . . . . .                                       | 1  |
| Carl B. Hoch, Jr. Award . . . . .                    | 52     | Federal Stafford Loan Program . . . . .                 | 62 |
| Carl B. Hoch, Jr. Bookroom . . . . .                 | 67     | Federal Student Loan Deferment . . . . .                | 63 |
| Carl B. Hoch, Jr. Scholarship . . . . .              | 63     | Fees . . . . .                                          | 59 |
| Change of Degree Program . . . . .                   | 50     | Financial Aid . . . . .                                 | 59 |
| Chapel . . . . .                                     | 69     | Financial Information . . . . .                         | 59 |
| Church Planting Scholarship . . . . .                | 63     | Full Admission . . . . .                                | 55 |
| Clarence and Pauline Doane Scholarship . . . . .     | 63     | Geographical Setting . . . . .                          | 10 |
| Classification of Students . . . . .                 | 46     | George Samuelson Scholarship . . . . .                  | 62 |
| Computer Lab . . . . .                               | 67     | Gerald O. and Henrietta A. Jennex Scholarship . . . . . | 61 |
| Conditional Admission . . . . .                      | 56     | Global Impact Scholarship . . . . .                     | 61 |
| Consumer Information . . . . .                       | 58     | Global Learning Center . . . . .                        | 12 |
| Core Values . . . . .                                | 8      | Grades and Honor Points . . . . .                       | 46 |
| Cornerstone Confession . . . . .                     | 9      | Graduate Programs . . . . .                             | 21 |

|                                                                                     |    |                                                                      |        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Graduation . . . . .                                                                | 46 | Non-Degree Enrollment . . . . .                                      | 55     |
| Graduation Awards . . . . .                                                         | 52 | Officers of Administration . . . . .                                 | 90     |
| Grants . . . . .                                                                    | 60 | Owen John Lydecker Memorial Award . . . . .                          | 53     |
| Greek and Hebrew Competency Exam . . . . .                                          | 16 | Paul A. Beals Missions Scholarship . . . . .                         | 61     |
| Guest Students . . . . .                                                            | 55 | Payment of Bills . . . . .                                           | 60     |
| Health Services . . . . .                                                           | 65 | Philosophy of Education . . . . .                                    | 10     |
| Historical/Systematic/Philosophical/Moral<br>Theology Course Descriptions . . . . . | 75 | Philosophy of Ministry . . . . .                                     | 11     |
| History of the Seminary . . . . .                                                   | 8  | President's Award . . . . .                                          | 52     |
| Honorary Board of Trustees . . . . .                                                | 91 | President's Student Scholarship Fund . . . . .                       | 62     |
| Housing Arrangements . . . . .                                                      | 66 | Readmission . . . . .                                                | 55     |
| Housing Fees . . . . .                                                              | 59 | Refund Policy . . . . .                                              | 60     |
| Inclusive Language . . . . .                                                        | 47 | Registration . . . . .                                               | 55     |
| Incompletes . . . . .                                                               | 51 | Registration Fee . . . . .                                           | 59     |
| Institutional Distinctives . . . . .                                                | 8  | Retake Policy . . . . .                                              | 47     |
| International Students . . . . .                                                    | 56 | Satisfactory Academic Progress . . . . .                             | 63     |
| Interpretive Aids . . . . .                                                         | 68 | Scholarships . . . . .                                               | 61     |
| James Murray Grier Academic Scholarship . . . . .                                   | 61 | Scholastic Honors . . . . .                                          | 47     |
| Joe Crawford Scholarship . . . . .                                                  | 61 | Scholastic Probation . . . . .                                       | 48     |
| J-Term . . . . .                                                                    | 15 | Second Degrees . . . . .                                             | 50     |
| Kenneth & Lorraine Nienhuis Scholarship . . . . .                                   | 62 | Selective Service Registration . . . . .                             | 63     |
| Learning Disabilities Accommodation . . . . .                                       | 49 | Semesters and Hours . . . . .                                        | 46     |
| Leon J. Wood Award . . . . .                                                        | 52 | Spouse Benefit . . . . .                                             | 66     |
| Letter from the Dean . . . . .                                                      | 13 | Staley Lecture Series . . . . .                                      | 67     |
| Library (Miller Library) . . . . .                                                  | 66 | Statement of Educational Purpose . . . . .                           | 62     |
| Loans . . . . .                                                                     | 62 | Statement of Faith and Practice . . . . .                            | 58     |
| Macy Mission Scholarship . . . . .                                                  | 62 | Statement of Non-Discrimination . . . . .                            | 57     |
| Master of Arts Degrees . . . . .                                                    | 24 | Statement of Refund and Default . . . . .                            | 62     |
| Master of Divinity Degree . . . . .                                                 | 21 | Strauss Expository Preaching Award . . . . .                         | 52     |
| Master of Theology Course Descriptions . . . . .                                    | 74 | Student Appeal Process . . . . .                                     | 48, 67 |
| Master of Theology Degree . . . . .                                                 | 40 | Student Assessments . . . . .                                        | 18     |
| Michigan Tuition Grant . . . . .                                                    | 67 | Student Grievance Procedure:<br>Standards of Accreditation . . . . . | 49     |
| Mid-Point Assessment . . . . .                                                      | 46 | Student Learning Portfolio . . . . .                                 | 17     |
| Ministry Referral . . . . .                                                         | 65 | Student Life . . . . .                                               | 64     |
| Ministry Residency . . . . .                                                        | 20 | Student Senate . . . . .                                             | 67     |
| Ministry Theology Course Descriptions . . . . .                                     | 81 | Student Services . . . . .                                           | 64     |
| Mission and Purpose . . . . .                                                       | 8  | Sugden Seminary Scholarship . . . . .                                | 62     |
| Model for Ministry . . . . .                                                        | 11 | Summer School . . . . .                                              | 15     |
| Modules – Master of Theology . . . . .                                              | 16 | Table of Contents . . . . .                                          | 7      |
| New Student Orientation . . . . .                                                   | 56 | Talking Points . . . . .                                             | 67     |
| Nickolai Wiens Pastoral Award . . . . .                                             | 52 | Theological Education for Professionals . . . . .                    | 16     |

|                                        |    |                                                   |    |
|----------------------------------------|----|---------------------------------------------------|----|
| Thursday Evening Bible Class . . . . . | 67 | William Clarence Haas Award . . . . .             | 52 |
| Timothy Scholarship . . . . .          | 62 | Withdrawal . . . . .                              | 51 |
| Traditional Semesters . . . . .        | 15 | Women’s Studies Lecture Series . . . . .          | 67 |
| Transfer of Credit . . . . .           | 49 | Woodrow McCaleb Leadership Scholarship . . . . .  | 62 |
| Transfer Students . . . . .            | 55 | Zondervan Publishing House Greek Award . . . . .  | 52 |
| Veterans Benefits . . . . .            | 63 | Zondervan Publishing House Hebrew Award . . . . . | 52 |
| Wielhouwer Scholarship . . . . .       | 62 |                                                   |    |